

HISTORY
OF
PIERCE COUNTY
WISCONSIN

FOR USE IN THE COMMON SCHOOLS
OF THE COUNTY



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HISTORY

OF

PIERCE COUNTY WISCONSIN

for use in the

Pierce County Common Schools

by authority of

MARK L. SAXTON

County Superintendent of Schools

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FOREWORD

It has been difficult to make selections from the great mass of material concerning Pierce county and to tell an interesting, connected story of the county in the small space of this little book. Many things the author would like to have included he could not.

The aim has been to present a brief but comprehensive review of the county from the time it first became known to white men, through its development along all lines until the present day, furnishing just enough of the innumerable details to indicate how the given events occurred, and hoping that the student will become so interested that he will follow-up the leads here given and learn more of the story for his own satisfaction.

Here are shown the beginnings of Pierce county's present high standings in education, in home-making, in agriculture and other lines of industry; here is shown the progress made, and from that progress the trends can be deduced that shall, under the guidance and by the good will of those who are to study this book, carry our county to still higher levels. It is the hope of the author that the labors, sacrifices and hardships of the men and women who laid the foundation and developed Pierce County so well, will be an inspiration to the boys and girls of today; and that with the added advantages of modern life they will do a better and more complete job of county building.

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Along Lake Pepin's Castled Shore

CHAPTER I

Early French Explorations

Within forty years of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, adventurous French voyageurs had reached Wisconsin territory at Green Bay, at the head of Lake Superior and along the shores of Lakes Superior and Michigan. First trader known to have ventured so far west as the Mississippi was one Menard, a *coureur de bois* ("traveler of the woods") but no trace of his work remains.

In 1680 Father Louis Hennepin, Catholic priest and missionary, crossed Wisconsin by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers with his companions, Michael Accou, leader of the party, and Antoine Anguel (both *coureurs de bois*) and their crews of boatmen in two *batteaux* (large but light flat-bottomed boats) then paddled up the Mississippi river to what Hennepin described as the "magnificent" falls where Minneapolis now stands. He named this cataract the Falls of St. Anthony de Padua.

Here Hennepin's party met a war party of Sioux Indians headed into Wisconsin on a scalping expedition. At first the Indians and white men fraternized. They organized a joint hunt on the prairies in what are now Oak Grove, Diamond Bluff and Clifton townships and killed many buffalo. This was the first time that white men ever hunted in Pierce county territory.

But the Indians became insolent, taking away all the property of Hennepin's party and practically making prisoners of the white men, although no harm was done to them personally. Soon afterward the whole party went down river to Lake Pepin and hunted deer in the dense woods on the bluffs along Rush River.

Luckily for Hennepin's party, another French trader, DuLhut (after whom the city of Duluth, Minn., is named), and his party paddled down the St. Croix and Mississippi river at this time, heard of the Hennepin party and came into the woods after them. DuLhut soon made friends of the Sioux and liberated the Hennepin party, who received back most of their belongings. The whole party then went back up the river to the Sioux villages in Minnesota to trade.

Father Hennepin returned to France soon afterward, where his enthusiastic descriptions of the Northwest created a sensation. King Louis XIV ordered that "capable persons be sent to take possession anew of all that region".

Nicholas Perrot was accordingly sent from the French fort at Le Baie des Paunts (Green Bay) to Lake Pepin to set up forts as trading posts and to hold the region for France.

Largest of these forts was built on the north shore of Lake Pepin between the present villages of Pepin and Stockholm and was called Fort St. Antone; here Perrot formally proclaimed French possession of the entire Northwest, witnesses being Father Mar-est, missionary to the Sioux, a trader named LeSeuer, and Bois Guillot, commandant of all French forces along the Mississippi.

Other forts were established at Mount Trempealeau ("mount stands on the water"), at the foot of the lake, and at Point des Sables (now Point No-Point) near the present village of Frontenac, Minn. Ruins of Fort St. Antone are still to be seen. Perrot State Park now marks the site of Fort Trempealeau.

It was never the policy of the French government, at this point or anywhere else in America, to encourage permanent settlements for any other than the two purposes of trading for furs with the Indians and of converting those Indians to Christianity. The French traders and missionaries lived very close to the natives—so much so that most of the traders married Indian girls for as long as they were stationed at any one place. Some of these women and their children were later taken to France. But there was no permanent development of the country under French rule.

Wars between the French and Indians on one side and the English and Colonists on the other dragged along intermittently in eastern America for many years. After the French were defeated came the Revolutionary war in which those Colonists gained title to all lands east of the Mississippi river. But the new nation, few in numbers, poor in purse and exhausted by generations of war, was in no condition to extend any settlements into this far wilderness.

However, when President Thomas Jefferson bought the remaining rights of France in the New World by the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, conditions changed. That purchase marks the beginning of the real history of settlement of the Northwest and of Pierce county.

A trip to Perrot State Park is only a day's outing from here, and Fort St. Antone could also be visited. Take state highway 35.

CHAPTER II

Early Settlement of County

Soon after the purchase of the Louisiana territory had been perfected, Capt. Zebulon Pike of the U. S. Army was sent into this section to select a site for a fort; he picked the high point at the junction of the St. Peter and Mississippi rivers. In the fall of 1805 he made a treaty with the Sioux for a strip of land nine miles wide each side of the Mississippi from the mouth of the St. Peter to the falls of St. Anthony.

But not until 1819 was a fort built, named Fort St. Anthony, cornerstone being dedicated Sept. 20, 1820. Four years later Gen. Scott changed the name to Fort Snelling.

As early as 1820, officers of the United States army stationed at Fort Snelling, then one of the extreme outposts of the nation, and officers of the Northwestern Fur Company, buying furs of the Indians and trappers in this section of the country, conceived the idea that some day a great city would grow in this locality and that if they could foresee the location of that city, and obtain control of the land on which it should be built, they could become rich by selling lots there.

In 1827 a company was organized at Fort Snelling including the leading officers stationed there, also a Mr. Prescott and a doctor connected with the fur company. They concluded that the chief city of the North-west must be located at the junction of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

City of Prescott located.—This company raised \$2,000 and elected Mr. Prescott to make a claim from the U. S. government for 1,200 acres on the bluffs overhanging the junction of those rivers, on the east side. Log buildings were erected there and an Indian trading post established.

Indian treaty signed.—In 1827 the U. S. Government, through the officers at Fort Snelling, concluded a treaty with the Sioux (or Dakota) Indians for their claims to all the lands on the east side of the Mississippi river. This was really a quit-claim deed, as the lands along the Mississippi were not claimed by any tribe, being neutral ground between the Sioux on the west and the Chippewas on the east; but signing of this treaty gave the federal government a clear title, opening the land to settlement and quiet-

ing the fears that had hitherto kept most of the people in the East from coming out into the wilderness.

However, the Prescott company as yet had no title to the land it wanted. And in 1841 Congress by special law reduced the size of the Prescott claim from 1,200 acres to 160 acres.

At this time, and before, "squatters" had located along the Mississippi river near Fort Snelling, mostly bootleggers and Indian traders. Now genuine settlers coming up the river found it impossible to buy land at Prescott and many of them also squatted at Dayton's Bluff; so the city of St. Paul was founded, without plan or intention.

City of Prescott founded.—In 1851 Mr. Prescott succeeded in getting title to about 200 acres at the trading post and he surveyed some lots and began to sell them. That summer Dr. O. T. Maxson built and stocked a general merchandise store there—the first such store north of LaCrosse. The next year Maxson bought out the Prescott company, selling a half interest to Wm. J. Copp. This removed the restraint of the army influence from the new settlement, but too late to overcome the lead which the squatter settlement near Fort Snelling had obtained, and so Pierce county lost its chance to obtain the metropolis of the North-west.

Next spring came a flood of pioneers from the East, from Maine to Texas. Every steamboat arrived top-heavy with settlers and their goods. By fall, all the building lots in Prescott had been sold and all the government land for eight and ten miles out had been taken up. The town's three hotels, each three stories high, and all the private houses in town were over-crowded with settlers waiting for their own houses to be built. Three large saw-mills operated every daylight hour. The levee was a huge camp. Shops and stores opened. Prescott had become the leading city of north-west Wisconsin.

Farm production begins.—Until 1855 there was no shipment of any product out of this section, all local production being consumed by the settlers themselves, with the heavy import from outside. But in that year the local farms had become sufficiently developed to produce a surplus (mostly wheat and hay) and shipment of this surplus began; it was mostly bought by the lumbering camps on the St. Croix and by the new city of St. Paul. Farmers' wagons from the prairies to the east and north of Prescott rolled

over the rude trails to the warehouses there; from one to three steamboats were tied up at the city levee every day, discharging and receiving cargoes. Money received for this produce was used to build and improve the farms and the city.

Character of the Pioneers.—Most of the early settlers of Pierce county came from New England, or from New York state or Ohio. They brought the early sturdy, industrious, church and school-loving character with them. Many of them also brought considerable money. No section of America ever had a better class of settlers than came to Pierce county.

River Falls settlement.—In 1849 Joel Foster, from Connecticut, instead of stopping on the banks of the river went inland to the prairie along the Kinnickinnic river and became the first settler in the town of Greenwood, now River Falls. He was soon followed by two brothers, N. N. and O. S. Powell, and their families, who in the fall of 1854 laid out their farm into lots and began building up a town. They called it Kinnickinnick. Two years later this village had a large flouring-mill operated by water power, two saw-mills and a planing mill, with 200 people; also a prosperous and well-developed farming community on the prairies near.

Diamond Bluff laid out.—In 1852 a tract of 1,200 acres twelve miles down the river from Prescott was secured by J. W. Hoyt, of Nashville, Tenn. His brother, C. F. Hoyt, laid out 50 acres of it in lots, naming the place Diamond Bluff; an addition of 25 acres was laid out by Enoch Quimby and D. W. Clark. This settlement did not prosper as well as Prescott and River Falls, perhaps because it was surrounded by dense woods and the soil was not so good.

First settlers were John T. Payne, George Harpster, A. B. Willson, C. F. Hoyt, Samuel Hunter, E. Quimby, Daniel Comstock, George Rogers, C. B. Messer and George B. Hope. First store was opened by Daniel Stone; next year E. B. Coulter also began business. First hotel was begun by C. H. Grant and D. R. Clark, who ran out of funds and sold to McCue & Cleary. First school house (cost \$600) was built in 1858. In 1860 Chas. Fisher erected the first blacksmith shop. First carpenters in the village were C. H. Grant and Z. Cross.

The township at this time included what is now the township of Trenton. First town election was held at D. Comstock's April

7, 1857, to complete organization. Following officers were elected: James Akers chairman; Wilson Thing and A. B. Willson supervisors; Edmond Thing clerk (he resigned and C. F. Hoyt was appointed); James Akers, George Harpster and R. Caniff assessors; A. B. Willson, Wilson Thing, C. F. Hoyt and R. Caniff justices; E. H. Boustead superintendent of schools; A. Blaisdell treasurer.

Pleasant Valley—The township of Pleasant Valley was organized April 7, 1854, and comprised all the territory now included in the township and village of Maiden Rock and townships of Salem and Union. Early settlers were Harvey Seeley, who came in 1850; A. Chapman, who came in 1854; J. Fuller, J. A. Gitteau, J. D. Trumbull, Amos Harris, G. H. Steele and M. J. Paine, who came in 1855.

Maiden Rock Village—The village of Maiden Rock was laid out in 1857 by J. D. Trumbull, main business man of the little town; he did the surveying himself. He had the first sail boat ever used on Lake Pepin, and in 1857 Josiah Bachelor built for Trumbull the first steamboat ever owned on the lake. He built and paid for the first school house (1857), hiring the first teacher, Miss Charlotte Isabelle of Batavia, Ill., and paying her wages for the three-months term out of his own pocket. He was appointed the first postmaster in 1856, furnishing the post office himself and bringing mail across the lake from Waucouta, Minn., at his own expense; this cost him \$50.00 the first year and receipts from his post office (which was his entire salary) were \$11.00 for the year. Mr. Trumbull built the first sawmill in 1855; Amos Harris operated it.

The Lake View House, first hotel, was built in 1857. A. P. Merrill opened the first general store in 1860.

Because the lake's main channel is near the Minnesota shore, regular steamboats did not stop at Maiden Rock.

Town of Isabelle—Although there were fishers and trappers along the lake before that date, permanent settlement of Isabelle Township began in 1853, when Adam Brown took up government land, and when Phillips Bros. put a steam sawmill at Saratoga (Bay City).

The first known murder in Pierce County occurred because of the settlement at Bay City. A squatter named Dexter became so

angry when a Mr. Morton bought the site of Bay City from the government that he shot and killed the surveyor.

Engaged with Phillips Bros. in the sawmill was Charles R. Tyler, a distant relative of Pres. John Tyler. After Saratoga was abandoned (nearly all the buildings were hauled to Warrentown on the ice one winter) Mr. Tyler secured the town site by paying \$1,700 back taxes and renamed it Bay City. Tyler was Bay City's second post master, the first being Noble Martin.

Town of Hartland—The beautiful little stream called the Isabelle rises in almost the exact center of Pierce county and flows south into Lake Pepin through a narrow, deep valley, bisecting the Township of Hartland. About six miles from its mouth James Buckingham built a dam and a sawmill, the first in Hartland Township and the pioneer industry in what became the village of Esdaile.

Village of Esdaile—In the 1870's the Chas. Betcher Co. of Red Wing acquired the mill at Esdaile, enlarged the dam and built a spoke and stave factory beside the sawmill. The company also bought thousands of acres of school and railroad lands in the woods of Hartland, Ellsworth, Salem and El Paso and as far east as Rock Elm and Union townships, hauling the logs to Esdaile to be made up, and hauling the products to Red Wing.

A considerable village materialized there, with several hundred workmen, churches, hotels, stores, school, creamery, furniture factory, blacksmith shops, and the other necessary industries. After the timber was cut off the Betcher company withdrew and the settlement faded away, scarcely a trace of it being left now.

Among the earliest settlers of Hartland were Lewis Buckmaster (1853), James Buckingham and Augustus Hodgeman (1854). The township was organized in 1859 with A. Harris as chairman and Joseph Sleeper and R. M. Sproul supervisors. First postoffice was established at Esdaile in 1869, Hiram Patch being first post master. Mary Ann Stunio was first school teacher, in 1858.

Town of Union—Although what is now the township of Union was first settled by Edmund Holt and Herbert N. Wood, their story does not really belong with the story of the Town of Union, as they were in the Grange Hall country. They will be referred to in another place.

The Plum Creek valley in Union is narrow and deep, and it looked good to those sturdy men from Switzerland who came into it in the 1850's, somewhat homesick for their native hills. That is why John Hein, a native of Switzerland, located there in 1857, being the first settler of the township outside of the Grange Hall neighborhood.

Plum City—At the foot of the hill and just above the big spring in what is now the village of Plum City John Hein built his own little home, carrying all the logs on his back. He was soon followed by others, mostly from Switzerland. The Mosers, Frank and Alois, were among the first; Frank soon had the valley surveyed into streets and lots, and the two brothers built a simple water-power sawmill. Later a larger mill was built by Joseph Oberding and Jacob Appliger, and still later Theodore Suter put up a good-sized mill.

In 1861 John Spiss built a log building for a few groceries and a saloon, but the first general store was put in by Casper Moser. L. H. Leach put a general store in the Baltz Moser building. In 1869 or '70 S. W. Hunn put a stock of goods into a log building but soon erected a frame store where he and his son-in-law, F. M. Purdy, did a large business for years. Later they sold to John Plath and Jacob J. Schultheiss; Mr. Plath had been in business before that, but gave his building to his daughter Anna, who occupied it as a millinery store. Mr. Schultheiss had a drug store before this, Dr. M. H. Curtis being his partner.

J. J. Schultheiss was one of the prime movers in Plum City's early days in every line. He organized the first telephone line in eastern Pierce county, which later covered the county and was absorbed by the Wisconsin system; he was a county surveyor.

The first school house was built in 1872 and Miss Fannie Hunn, of Maiden Rock, was first teacher; it was a log structure. Later a frame building was put up, but burned, and a brick structure was erected on the same site. The present school house was built in 1894, but has been enlarged.

Plum City's first post master was David Parkhurst; mail came from Menomonie and Maiden Rock once each week. Next post master was Baltz Moser, who used the drawer in his kitchen table as a receptacle for the mail; following him was S. W. Hunn, next John J. Moser. First wheeled conveyance in Union was a two-wheeled cart made by Frank Moser, Sr., and owned by M. Linder,

who drove one ox as motive power. First white child born in Plum City was Minnie Moser, later Mrs. Nick Oberding.

Town of Spring Lake—The township now known as Spring Lake remained under various other town governments until April 14, 1869, when it was organized as a separate entity, but it had been settled several years before that date.

First town officers were: Wm. D. Akers chairman, James Webb and Louis A. Hess supervisors, Thos. P. Kelley clerk, Sam'l Sanders treasurer, David R. Stratton assessor.

Dates of first settlement are indefinite. About 1860 a man named Cady built the frame for a sawmill and also erected a log house in section 14 on the stream which bears his name. About the same time a man named Gilmore had a small cabin in section 6, on the flat where the village of Spring Valley stands. O. P. Gardner settled in section 22 the next year. In 1862 A. M. Wilcox and his son George settled in section 6, giving a rifle for Gilmore's 80 acres. During the next two years John Francisco settled in section 8, Abraham Gossett on section 26, Aaron Ailport and Wm. Graham on section 14 on Cady Creek, Wm. D. Akers put up a small store on section 18.

The township was named for a small lake on section 16, fed by a big spring; both spring and lake have now completely disappeared and their site is good farm land. In physical characteristics it is one of the roughest townships of the county. Two good-sized villages (Spring Valley and Elmwood) and part of another (Olivet) have been carved from its territory.

Although most of Spring Lake was covered with hardwoods such as maple, basswood and oak, there was a large stand of good pine on the headwaters of the Eau Galle river in St. Croix county and much of that was cut and driven down the Eau Galle to the Eau Galle Mills, owned by Carson & Rand. Many of the early settlers of the township were lumbermen who bought land here when they retired from the strenuous work of lumbering; others were hunters and trappers.

But immediately after the close of the Civil War the country began to fill with veterans of that war and their families. One bunch of settlers—nearly 60 persons—came in a body from Indiana in 1866, settling on sections 2 and 12; by 1870 nearly all the government land, the even-numbered sections, had been taken as homesteads; the school and railroad lands moved more slowly.

In the fall of 1866 Michael Tio settled on section 4; next spring Samuel Stratton and his son David, Sam Shields, Perry Swartz, Ira Porter and R. Toothman came to section 10; Jas. A. Nelson came in 1867. In the spring of 1868 John Estenson, Esten Johnson, Lars Larson and John Oleson took up the south half of section 4 and that fall Wash Claybald took the remaining 80 in the section.

Town of Rock Elm. In the fall of 1866 some thirty mechanics in the city of Milwaukee raised money to pay a committee for exploring the forests of eastern Pierce county with the idea of colonizing there if found suitable. Otis Churchill, Willard Rider and Oscar Fowler made the exploration.

On their return Willard Rider went to Dodge county where Chas. A. Hawn and David L. White ran a saw mill and prevailed on them to move their mill to Pierce county. He said that about 25 families from Milwaukee would form a colony there, would build a horse tramway to Maiden Rock, establish a shipyard, build boats and barges and ship lumber down the river. At that time good butternut was worth \$60 to \$80 a thousand at Milwaukee; the forests of eastern Pierce county were full of it.

The plan looked good to Hawn and White. They induced S. J. Fox to come with them, and all three families located in the town of Rock Elm. Mr. Fox invested \$1,000 in merchandise and opened a store. Hawn & White shipped their mill by rail to LaCrosse, by boat to Maiden Rock, by ox team to Rock Elm. In six weeks they were sawing lumber—but not for that proposed tramway to Maiden Rock.

The Otis Churchill family was the only one of the proposed colony that settled in Rock Elm.

C. A. Hawn and his sons Ed, Jay and Cassius ran the mill many years, also buying much land in that and adjoining towns. In connection with George H. Nichols of Prescott, they washed out gold along Plum Creek in that township; they found considerable gold and two diamonds in the sands of the creek, but not enough to pay for their labor. Mr. Hawn took a prominent part in town politics and was later elected assemblyman from Pierce county.

But Rock Elm had a number of settlers before this date. The Wm. Craig family came in 1865, and for several years Mr. Craig was head sawyer in the Hawn mill. The Jas. C. Miles family came in 1863 and Wm. H. Miles in 1865, the James Colletts and Alexanders in 1863.

Town of Clifton—The town of Clifton was set off at the county board meeting March 3, 1857. First town board was George W. McMurphy chairman, Osborne Strahl and G. W. Teachout supervisors. Chas. W. Cox ("Uncle Charley") was first post master of Clifton Mills, in 1852.

George W. McMurphy introduced crop rotation into Pierce county. Noticing that land "ran out" after a few years of raising wheat, he sowed his whole farm to clover; the seed sold well and he plowed the second growth under. In a couple of years he again planted wheat, raising twice as much as his neighbors on their depleted soil.

The town of Ellsworth was set off in 1870. P. M. Simons was first chairman, Caleb Bruce and Wilson Kinne supervisors. Anthony Huddleston, who settled on section 20 April 23, 1855, was first settler; in the same year Elihu, Calib and Eli Bruce settled near him. Norris Kinne built the first house in the town. The first school house was built in 1857, Miss Mary Filkins (afterward Mrs. G. H. Sargeant) being teacher. The village of Ellsworth was set off in 1862.

The town of Gilman was organized as the town of Deerfield in 1870. Oliver Purdy was chairman, Caleb Coon and Bardon Jenson supervisors. First settler was B. F. Gilman, for whom the town was afterward named, but Rufus Preston and Joseph and Caleb Coon soon followed him. First school was taught by Mrs. M. L. Maxgood. U. F. Hals was first post master of Gilman Center, also town clerk. First wedding was that of Caleb Coon and Cenith Preston, and their son Rady was the first child born in the township.

The town of Martell, including all the north-east corner of Pierce county, was organized in 1854 with Amos Bonesteel as chairman, R. J. Thompson and M. Statten supervisors. Earliest settlers were four French-Canadians—Joseph Martell, who gave his name to the township, Lewis Lepeau, John Doe and Xerxes Jock, who settled there in 1847. First school opened in 1857, M. Bewel being teacher. O. Rasmusson was first post master, name of the post office being Rising Sun, which name was soon dropped. Among the early settlers were John P. Aasterud, Gilbert Forseth, Berosne Iverson, Martin Olson, Peter Berge, Stener Thorson and Swend T. Winger.

Oak Grove town was set off from Clifton in 1856. The town of Clifton, also set up at this time, and Oak Grove were to assume, with the newly-created city of Prescott, one-third each of the debts of the previous town of Prescott. Earliest settlers in the town were the Cornelisons, soon followed by Thing brothers, Harnsberger brothers, Miner brothers, John M. Rice and others who came about 1848. Among early settlers were John Murphy, Michael Rock and Fred Endorf. St. Johns Evangelical Church was organized in 1866.

The town of River Falls was organized in 1854 and was at first called Greenwood, but when the post office was changed to River Falls the name of the town was also changed. Early history of the town is merged with that of the city.

Salem township was organized Jan. 13, 1862; chairman was C. C. Carpenter, supervisors Eben White and J. H. Shultz. Among the first settlers were Jeremiah Fuller and W. Wells in 1846, Harvey Seeley, Tom Boyle, James White, John F. Davis, John H. Brasington, Eben White, Jas. Walsingham, H. M. Hicks, John Foley, John Strong, John McClure, Jas. Schultz, H. C. Brown and C. C. and Ira Carpenter. First marriage was of Harvey Seeley and Kate McKenstry. First post master was Joseph Seeley in 1860, his post office being called Pleasant Valley.

The town of Trim Belle was organized March 2, 1855, Martin B. Williams being chairman, Aaron Cornelison and Franklin Otis supervisors. Among the earliest settlers were John Smith, H. F. McAllister, David and O. H. Belden, Edwin Green, Noah Tripp and John Lynch in the Beldenville vicinity, and John McLaughlin, John Beardsley, O. T. Maxson, John McEwen, Lewis Sperry and "Garner" Colerud near where the village of Trimbelle was located. Down the river a short distance was the neighborhood called Utah because of a local mill owner's leaning toward Mormonism. First post office was established at Trimbelle in 1855, Aaron Cornelison being post master, second at Beldenville in 1858 with J. H. Collins as post master. In 1867 Jonathan Park built a furniture factory at Utah, later taking John Reeves as partner, and selling to Reeves in 1872.

Village of Spring Valley Early in the 1860's a few pioneers settled along the little Eau Galle river in sections 5 and 6, of Spring

Lake, and gradually this became the main settlement in the township, containing a store, a school house, a post office and a saw-mill.

In 1890 W. W. Newell, miner and prospector from the West, who had been attracted to the town of Rock Elm some years before by reports of its peculiar geological formation, and who had discovered gold and diamonds there, in an attempt to find the "mother lode" of that gold, looked over the region around Spring Valley. There he discovered several deposits of iron ore, large enough, it was thought, to pay for working. Capital was interested. An idle iron furnace in another part of the state was brought here and the necessary buildings constructed. The railroad which served the lumber mills at Wildwood, St. Croix county, was extended to the site of the furnace. In the summer of 1892 a typical "mining boom" occurred and a village grew up in a hurry. Large mills were built to cut staves, spokes and heading; later veneering was made. The industries of the village employed some 500 men. But the so-called "Cleveland depression" caused the iron furnace to close, and when it re-opened later iron was being produced more cheaply elsewhere; the furnace closed for good in 1908. Lack of timber caused the main woodworking plants to move away. Then the village "found itself" as an agricultural trading and school center.

The Village of Elmwood was part of the town of Spring Lake until 1905, when it became incorporated as the second village to be set off from that township. Its very earliest settlement began in connection with the logging along the Eau Galle; later a couple of stores located there, then a post office was opened. About 1900 a veneering mill was started there, and several sawmills. In 1900 the Spring Valley branch of the C. M. St. P. & O. railroad was extended to an addition to the village where officials of the railroad company had bought land and platted them, and a new village sprang up quickly.

The town of Trenton was organized Nov. 14, 1857; its early history is closely connected with Diamond Bluff. Wilson Thing is said to have been the town's first settler, in 1848; Jas. Akers, another early settler, was first town chairman. The town contains one village, Hager City, where the first post office was located. "The Island" at the head of Lake Pepin is also located in this town,

and has caused the town many police problems.

The town of El Paso was set off from Pleasant Valley Nov. 18, 1858; at that time it contained seven voters. First known settler in the town was Thos. Hurley; George Walker and Thos. T. Magee were not far behind; Walker and Magee were mill men, and their mills were reason for locating the village of El Paso, which was laid out by Magee in 1862.

G. P. Walker, El Paso's first mill man, was sent into the "Big Woods" by Field & Bailey, of Prescott, who owned timber-land in sections 4 and 5; he came in September, 1857, and put up a house and workshop.

John Hurley and Darius McIntyre located in 1858. The B. H. Gilman family, for whom the town of Gilman was named, staid a year with the McIntyres; the women were sisters. Other settlers were the Chas. McGinley family, the L. A. McGinley family, the Jennings family and the Langenbach family. In 1859 the Frank Hines family came, having already bought a large tract of land.

On Lost Creek were Thos. Murphy, Richard Devereaux, John Haster and Frank Karrigan. On the west side were Berret Tostenon and Nels A. Nelson; on the south side John Strong, Hilton Green, Jack Culbertson and Robert Richardson; on section 24 Tim Harrington and farther south Jerry, David and William Mountain.

History of Your Town

The foregoing are only the briefest notes concerning the townships, villages and cities of Pierce county. Neither the space in this book, nor your time in the class, would allow a complete history of every such unit of government here. But the history of your own locality should be given careful attention by you. Borrow the town's record books, one by one, from the clerk, and read them, making notations of important happenings, town officers, names of citizens mentioned. Talk with older inhabitants of the township. From this data, have a history written. Your local newspaper will be glad to publish the best, giving your school credit.

The first official sectional map of Pierce county was drawn in 1857 by Horatius Twombly, a brilliant young lawyer then county attorney; the county paid him \$10.00 for his map. Twombly was a graduate of Dartmouth college. He soon left Pierce county to return to the East, where he became a leading attorney. Although he later received large fees, he said that the money he received for that map was the most welcome of any he ever earned.

Strong Jail Not Wanted

Prescott's first jail, the small wooden structure built in 1855, was anything but a stronghold. One member of the county board from River Falls suggested that a stronger building be erected, as too many prisoners were escaping. A Prescott member enlightened him: "We put them in there under indictment and they escape and go up or down river *and they don't come back*; if we made it so they couldn't get out we'd have to feed them".

Ellsworth Residence is former School House

First brick school house in the village of Ellsworth was a two-story building erected in 1874 at a cost of \$4,000.00. Afterward the building was remodeled into a private residence and is now owned and occupied by H. D. Hoffman. Many of the older residents of Ellsworth and of the county attended school in that building, the smaller pupils downstairs, the older ones upstairs. The building was not modern in any way. Among the teachers who officiated in this building was the humorist who afterward became nationally known as Bill Nye; he was not very successful as a teacher, and he neglected the janitor work (then always the teacher's duty) almost entirely. It is related that once the big girls in school swept the room while Teacher Nye was absent, collecting about a half bushel of dirt which they heaped under his table; but he sat there with his feet crossed over that pile of dirt for two weeks and never knew it. In his "History of the United States" Mr. Nye refers to Ellsworth and some of its citizens.



Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Cornelison

CHAPTER III

Soils, Contour and Climate

Pierce County Soils

What we call "soil" is a mixture of ground and powdered rocks and rotted vegetation and animal remains, acted on through many ages by chemicals in the water, by the winds and streams, by the roots of living plants, by earthworms and by bacteria of all kinds. It is a very complex product, of slow formation, and the success or failure of the agriculture of any neighborhood depends largely on the soils of that neighborhood.

It is not necessary that a farmer should learn all that a geologist can tell him of the soils of his farm; but he must know something about his soils to get the best possible results from his lands.

Most of Pierce county has been overflowed by the glaciers of the ice ages, and the northern and eastern parts are partially covered with glacial drift—soil from regions farther north, ground and mixed by ice action and deposited by water flow. As a consequence, the county has 13 distinct soil series, in 19 soil types and three phases. But most of these many types are related, and fortunately nearly all of them are good, fertile farm soils.

More than 90% of the top soil of Pierce county is silt loam, with a comparatively low percentage of organic matter and nearly all somewhat acid. (The relative amount of organic matter in soils can be estimated from their color, as organic matter darkens soil in proportion to its amount.)

In the northwestern corner of Pierce county occur large well-drained uplands of very dark soil 10 to 12 inches deep; a few such areas are found on the bluffs along the Mississippi; these have been prairie soils for ages.

The loams that cover the rest of the county are mixed up to 50% or 60% with the fine silt which settled on the bottom of the shallow ocean which once covered Wisconsin; this soil washes easily and has a smooth feel; it ranges from a few inches to 20 feet deep in various places in the county.

Subsoils vary more than the top soils, but in Pierce county are not extremely heavy nor compact. The subsoil material consists of limestone, shale and sandstone, generally well ground up; there is also much glacial drift (gravel and small stone) and recently-formed sand- and lime-stone.

Dividing the county by a straight line from the city of Prescott to the village of Ellsworth, thence in a straight line to the village of Spring Valley, separates the two main soil areas of the county. On the north and west of that line the soil is mostly Lindley loam, generally mixed with silt except for the sections in the towns of Oak Grove and Clifton, spoken of above, which consist of Carrington sandy loam; on the south and east of that line the main field soil is Clifton silt loam.

In the town of Rock Elm, sections 17, 20, 28, 29, 30, is the only outcropping of Boone silt loam found in the county.

The three loams mentioned form 64% of the area of the county, the rest consisting mostly of steep lands and narrow river bottoms. These loams make good agricultural lands. But because of their mixture with silt, and because so little of the farm lands are level, one of Pierce county's main problems is erosion.

Situated almost exactly midway between the North Pole and the Equator, and being far from any ocean, Pierce county has a temperate, continental climate—that is, it has the four seasons well marked, with very hot summers and very cold winters, though this is somewhat modified by Lake Pepin along the south edge of the county. The county lies in the belt of prevailing westerly winds. It has the variable climate incidental to the passing of a succession of cyclonic (circular) disturbances, determined by areas of high barometric pressure and low barometric pressure following each other from west to east.

Mean average temperature of the county's waterfront and a few miles back from the lakes and river is 44°F; average in the central part of the county is 43°F, and for the north-east belt 42°F. Extreme range is from about 55° below to 110° above zero.

Our winter temperature is about like that of northern Sweden and north central Russia, while our summer temperature is similar to southern France and China.

Rainfall in Pierce county has an average of 36 to 40 inches annually, with three distinct zones, following the zones of temperature—heaviest along the waterfront and lightest along the north-eastern border, with a belt from west to east receiving an intermediate amount.

This is, in all ways, a temperate climate. The county has neither the extremely wet seasons of the north-east counties, nor the extremely dry seasons of the eastern counties. The recent cycle of

dry summers has harmed Pierce county less than it hurt neighboring counties, and it is probable that in wet cycles the rainfall will not be so heavy here.

Pierce county, in a practically unglaciated area, has little level land. Although it was partially smoothed down by the most recent glacial age, the ice-cap which extended into the county was thin and probably did not remain long, so that the county topography has much of the appearance of that farther south along the Mississippi river in what is known as the unglaciated area.

The county consists of a plain, gently sloping from north-west toward the south and east, but everywhere gullied and rutted by streams, all flowing toward the coast line. The light soil has developed deep, narrow valleys for the larger streams, such as the Kinnickinnic in the north-west, the Trimbelle, the Isabelle and Rush River across the middle, and the Eau Galle, Cady Creek and Plum Creek in the eastern and north-eastern parts, with innumerable smaller valleys (what the French explorers called *coulees*) leading to the larger streams, so that in only a few places in the county is there any considerable level land.

The prairies of the River Falls area are laid on Lower Magnesian limestone (which is the foundation stone for the entire county) with outlying mesas topped by Trenton limestone. In other sections the Magnesian floor has been cut by stream action. Along the coastline, following the entire shore of Lake Pepin, the Mississippi and Lake St. Croix, are bold escarpments, bluffs, from 200 to 500 feet high, walls of the narrow valleys cut by the Mississippi and the St. Croix in pre-glacial times.

Along these rivers and streams have been formed terraces of alluvial deposits of varying width, some of which form rich farm land but most of which are very sandy. The Mississippi River is gradually filling up the head of Lake Pepin and eventually there will be a wide strip of level terrace land added all along that border of the county; within the memory of the present generation a long series of mud flats has been formed in the river from the mouth of the Trimbelle to the mouth of the Rush River, and the government dams, at Alma and Diamond Bluff, by still further slowing down the river's flow, will accelerate this deposit.

By the wording of the act of congress which set up the state of Wisconsin, in which "the main channel of the river" is made the boundary line, the towns along Lake Pepin have no definite south-

ern boundary; for there is no main channel in the lake. Without doubt, the villages of Maiden Rock, Warrentown and Bay City will find themselves well inland at some future time.

This bold water front of Pierce county has scenery comparable in beauty to that of many more famous localities. In 1821 the geologist Schoolcraft, standing on the present site of the city of Prescott, wrote:

"There is an island in the Mississippi opposite the junction" (of these two rivers). "At this point the river bluffs assume an increased height and more imposing aspect, and in the course of the next 50 miles we are presented with some of the most majestic and pleasing scenery. In many places the calcereous bluffs terminate in pyramids of naked rock, which resemble ruins of antique towers and aspire to such a giddy height above the level of the water that the scattered oaks which cling to their rugged summits seem dwindled to the most diminutive size. Sometimes there is a rock bluff on one bank and an extensive bank of alluvium on the other; again the hills recede from either shore and are veiled in the azure tint of the atmosphere, while the river assumes an amazing width and is beautified with many islands."

At the northern end of Lake Pepin, and from there to Diamond Bluff, a series of terraces extend along the waterfront at elevations of about 20, 40, 60 and 90 feet above the river, the highest terraces containing the largest area. Prescott is built on the lowest of three terraces, being about 95 feet above the river; other terraces are at 155 and 235 feet. These Prescott terraces seem to be built on rock foundations, but those along the Mississippi consist of sand and gravel. The highest terrace contains the coarsest material, being laid down when the river was high with glacial flow; the lower terraces were laid in later ages when the ice had receded.

Have you visited your own county to see the beautiful and interesting things which it contains? You should do so, not all at one time but making short excursions; if you can get someone acquainted with the spot to show you around, so much the better, but don't let lack of a guide prevent your going.

CHAPTER IV

Pierce County in Organization

For more than a century after Father Hennepin's visit to Wisconsin (which he spelled *Ouiskonsin* and which was the French pronunciation of an Indian phrase meaning "Meeting of the Waters") France laid vague claim to all the land west of Lake Michigan. After the Revolutionary War this territory was loosely claimed by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Virginia, but was erected as The North-west Territory by Congress in 1787.

Successively included in the territories of Indiana, Illinois and Michigan, Wisconsin was authorized as a separate territory in 1836; its western boundary was the Mississippi river, which of course extended to Lake Itaska in what is now Minnesota, and all the territory between the Mississippi and Wisconsin rivers was formed into Crawford county in 1818. Crawford county was later split into St. Croix (1840), Chippewa (1841), LaPointe (1843), and the remainder of Crawford; what is now Pierce county was included in St. Croix for several years.

Along in 1850 began an era of speculation and expansion in the United States, which stimulated the first real settlement of the upper Mississippi Valley. The river became crowded with steamboats, "side-wheelers" with great paddle-wheels, one on each side. "Town boomers" laid out embryo metropolises at every likely place along the river and sent glowing advertising into the East, which was ripe for the move. Adventurous men with money came, saw great possibilities, bought the speculators' lots.

Most of the coast-line of Pierce county was included in this speculative buying. Almost everywhere along the rivers high shelves of land formed natural sites for building, while on the tops of the bluffs near at hand was some of the best agricultural land in the world. Along the western coast of the county lay prairies ready for seeding; along the southern coast was the edge of "the Big Woods", where settlement meant labor almost incredible to us of a later generation. Each type of land found its settlers.

By the end of the year 1858 there were actually more village and city lots on sale in Pierce county than there are today.

Along Lake Pepin were the villages of Pleasant Valley (now Maiden Rock), Warrentown, and Saratoga (now Bay City); Monte-Diamond (now Diamond Bluff) and Prescott were located on the river. In the interior were Trimble, Greenwood (now

River Falls) and Rising Sun (now Martell), with others now lost to memory.

Many prominent eastern men bought lands here who never came west, not even coming out to look at their investments. Among them were Daniel Garfield, a cousin of President Garfield, whose lands were in eastern Pierce county; Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous philosopher and poet; and Philip Spooner, father of our Senator John C. Spooner, who bought school lands.

About 1858 the boom began to collapse. Banks (whose notes formed much of the currency then in use) failed and their notes became valueless. Settlers in the wilderness, having no means of communication other than an uncertain weekly mail, could not distinguish between good and worthless bank notes; gold and silver coins were hoarded or took a high premium. Every newspaper carried a column listing the latest bank failures and premiums on gold.

There was no more boom settlement from 1858 until after the Civil War, when another wave of pioneers came to Pierce county—mostly from eastern and southern Wisconsin and generally going to “the Big Woods” in the eastern part of the county.

County Seat Removed

In 1853 the large territory then comprised in St. Croix county was divided into three parts—Polk, St. Croix and Pierce—and the history of Pierce county as a separate political entity begins.

By the order establishing Pierce county the county seat had been fixed at Prescott, with permission to move it elsewhere by vote of the electors of the county, and an election of county officers was held in November of that year; the town board of Prescott—Osborn Strahl chairman, Silas Wright and Sylvester Moore supervisors—were to have charge of the county until election. This board appointed Henry Teachout as the first county clerk.

First general county election was held at the Sylvester Moore residence in Prescott; 110 votes were cast. First county officers then elected were:

N. S. Dunbar sheriff, J. R. Freeman treasurer, S. R. Gunn clerk of court, Henry Teachout clerk of county board, J. Olive coroner, P. V. Wise county attorney, J. E. True county surveyor. Vote for register of deeds was tied and J. M. Whipple was appointed to that office by the town board.

The county had no organized townships up to this date, being all under the direction of the town board of Prescott. At this time the town of Greenwood was set off, comprising approximately the north-west third of the county, and shortly afterward the town of Martell was set off, comprising the north-east third of the county. In that same year W. J. Copp was chosen circuit judge and Mason Stone county judge.

Valuation of entire Pierce county on the 1853 tax rolls was: real estate \$24,452; personal property \$3,616.

The county offices seem to have had no permanent location, rooms over stores and in other partially convenient places being rented from time to time. But a county jail was built at once.

At the 1854 November election the county's first assemblyman was chosen, Moses S. Gibson receiving that honor, and the county offices were shuffled around. It must be remembered that while this was called a county election, Prescott was still very much the whole county, although the new village of Greenwood (River Falls) was fast becoming a serious rival to Prescott. New officers were: J. Olive sheriff, J. Bailey treasurer, O. Strahl surveyor, John Truax clerk of court, A. C. Stowell county attorney, S. T. Otis register of deeds, N. N. Powell clerk, C. B. Cox coroner, Mason Stone county judge.

In 1855 the towns of Isabelle and Trimbelle were set off. In 1857 the town of Clifton was organized and the towns of Oak Grove and Perry (now Ellsworth) were set off. A little later the town of Pleasant Valley (now Maiden Rock) was set off from Isabelle; still later Hartland was also set off from Isabelle. At the same meeting of the board the town of Trenton was directed to be organized.

In March, 1858, the citizens of Greenwood met to choose another name for their town, as there already was a Greenwood post office in the state; they selected the name River Falls.

Population of Pierce county in 1855 was 1,720, according to the census; in 1860 it had increased to 4,672. But during the five years from 1860 to 1865 increase was slower, census of 1865 counting only 6,324.

County Seat removed. Growing jealousy between the metropolis of the county, Prescott, and its younger rival, River Falls, resulted in a struggle to remove the county seat from Prescott to River Falls. The three papers of the county—two at Prescott and

one at River Falls—were full of arguments. All voters of the county were canvassed. But a sentiment arose among settlers in the eastern part of the county against letting the county seat be permanently fixed so far from the center. Hence when the vote was taken in 1861 a small majority declared in favor of locating the county seat “on either section 17, 18, 19 or 20 of township 26, range 17 west”. This location was determined, it is said, by drawing straight lines from north-west to south-east and from north-east to south-west across the county map, the point where those lines crossed being in the western part of the town of Perry, now Ellsworth, on a high ridge in dense timber where no settlers had yet located.

However, a meeting of the county board was held “in that vicinity” April 16, 1861, the following members being present: E. Miner, Oak Grove; H. S. Proctor, River Falls; Wm. Hodge, Martell; J. Youngman, Perry; Thomas Hurley, El Paso; O. C. Whitney, Hartland; M. B. Williams, Trimbelle; James Akers, Trenton; John Fertig, Isabelle; W. J. Copp, Clifton; E. Quimby, Diamond Bluff; L. R. Smith and D. S. Cheney, Prescott; E. Holt, Pleasant Valley. O. Strahl was county clerk.

The board, after considerable discussion and many attempts at delay (which would have retained the county seat at Prescott) voted to raise \$2,000 “for erecting suitable buildings for holding courts, for offices for the county officers and for a jail, and said buildings shall be the court house of Pierce county.” From this small sum was later deducted the expenses of the May term of circuit court for the county.

A building of a sort was put up by Anthony Huddleston, only settler in that vicinity; but it was not accepted by the building committee and another log structure was built. A year or two later a frame building was put up and used until the permanent site was selected on which the county buildings now stand. The log court house was located about one-half mile east of the present structure, near where the Ellsworth town hall stood later.

Is it likely that the county seat of Pierce county will ever be moved again? Has its removal from Prescott to Ellsworth been a benefit to the county as a whole?

CHAPTER V

Stories of the Pioneers

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Cornelison

Aaron Cornelison came to the St. Croix section when only 22 years old, bringing his young bride with him; they lived many years as respected citizens of Pierce county; their story is given here as being representative of that of the majority of our pioneers.

Born in Kentucky in 1822, Mr. Cornelison married Martha Reaves, who was born in Tennessee, when he was 18, she 16. They were born under pioneer conditions and lived in that way until their later days, when farm life in Pierce county passed beyond the pioneer stage. But always they were hard-working, thrifty, honest, God-fearing citizens.

Boarding a river boat at Alton, Ill., in the spring of 1844, they were 13 days in reaching Prescott. Here they looked around, then continued up the St. Croix to Marine Mills, Minn., where Mr. Cornelison worked two years as head sawyer at \$16.00 per month. But Mrs. Cornelison did washing for the mill hands, making about \$30.00 per month, so that, although pork was \$16.00 per barrel and flour \$8.00 per barrel, they got along well. Mrs. Cornelison also found time during those two years to bear and raise two healthy children.

She was the third white woman settler in all the territory north of La Crosse, including the settlement around Fort Snelling.

The Cornelison family then moved to St. Croix Falls and for another two years did similar work, raising two more children there. By that time they had laid away enough money to buy a farm and the crude necessities of farm life.

They located land in section 16, town of Clifton, built a house and began to create a farm there. Mr. Cornelison broke up seven acres with his ox team and planted buckwheat, raising a big crop on that virgin soil. Devout readers of their Bible, they adopted the old Jewish method of threshing—made the oxen tramp it out. Their older children, John and Maggie, ground it in a coffee mill.

About this time the original J. I. Case threshing machine, a small, crude affair, was put on the market and Dexter Bailey, who settled in Clifton soon after the Cornelisons came, bought one; his charge for threshing was 25 cents per bushel, but there was very little threshing to do for several years and he did not get rich.

Other pioneers in Clifton were George Tozer, George McMurphy, George Rissue, Jake True, Wm. West and Joseph Cornelison.

In 1849 Charley Cox built a sawmill on the Kinnickinnic at what is known as Clifton Hollow, adding a grist-mill the following year; then John and Maggie and their coffee mill lost their grinding job. Almost everyone in Clifton began raising wheat; "Uncle Charley" bought the wheat, ground it and sold the flour in St. Paul. Average yield at that time was 40 bushels to the acre.

In the spring of 1852 the Cornelisons sold their Clifton farm and bought land in section 17, town of Trimble. They were the first settlers in that township also, moving into their new house Nov. 22. And on Jan. 17, 1853, another daughter (Martha) was born to them, being the first white child born in Trimble.

Another "first" came to the Cornelison family that same month when Mr. Cornelison's mother died—the first white person to die in that township.

When the town of Trimble was organized in 1853, Mr. Cornelison was elected treasurer. And when a post office was established in the town, later that same year, it was located on the Cornelison farm and Aaron Cornelison was appointed post master. All the settlers as far east as Rush River got mail there—but even that did not overburden the weekly mail-sack from Prescott. There was only one road then through the county from west to east (Prescott to Eau Galle Mills) but that went by the Cornelison's hospitable front door. And the first "preaching service" ever held in the town was conducted by Rev. Phelps, a Methodist circuit rider, in the Cornelison home.

Schooling became a problem for the growing Cornelison family. John, Margaret and Joseph were sent to the first school ever conducted in Pierce county, opened in 1850 by Mrs. Julia Olive at her home two miles north of Prescott. Besides the three Cornelisons, the entire enrollment consisted of Mrs. Olive's daughters Harriett and Scott and a neighbor child, Sam Newton. But in 1853 Miss Margaret Ellis started a school in a Trimble private home with eight pupils (four Cornelisons) and the following year a log school house was built, which was soon filled from the children of the many new families coming into the town.

In 1853 Aaron and Joseph Cornelison laid out the village of Trimble. At this time Dr. Maxson, of Prescott, built a sawmill

there and soon afterward a grist mill was added. By 1860, strung along the Trimble creek were seven sawmills, two gristmills and one furniture factory. Quite a village also sprang up in the northeast corner of the township around O. Belden's mill, being given the name of Beldenville.

When President Lincoln called for men for the Union army in 1861, both Aaron Cornelison and his son John volunteered, serving through the war with honorable records.

The Cornelisons had their troubles with the Indians, as did all the pioneers—nothing serious in this part of Wisconsin, but annoying enough. Mrs. Cornelison was alone in her home one day in the 1850's with two of the younger children when the door opened without warning and a big Indian buck, accompanied by a "Bosque Chamoceman" squaw, came in; the buck was armed with bow and arrows. They were followed by others until the house was full, yet about 100 remained outside.

They begged for kukush (pork), awhopie spangie (bread), tobak and everything else they thought they could get. Of course, Mrs. Cornelison and the children were badly scared, but she knew the Indians were only hunting, not on the warpath. She had been stirring clothes in a boiler on top of the stove with a broomhandle; snatching this out of the hot water she dashed at the big bucks, yelling as loud as she could and rather expecting to be roughly handled. But all those Indians ran, some of them laughing, many calling "White squaw heap brave."

Living in those days, Mr. Cornelison used to say, was good, though rude. The soil was fertile. There were no weeds and everything in field and garden grew well. If meat was wanted, it was only a matter of an hour or two until anyone could get a deer, perhaps a bear, certainly prairie chickens or a bushel of pigeons; an hour's fishing in any stream would secure all the trout wanted.

Domestic animals ran at large the year around, eating rushes and small brush in the winter, or digging up self-cured grass in the hollows, and keeping in prime condition the year around.

The Aaron Cornelison family finally increased to six boys and four girls, all hearty and strong, well trained at home to follow in their parents' honorable footsteps. Mrs. Cornelison died in 1900, aged 76, but Mr. Cornelison lived until 1906, having resided in Pierce county longer than any other person at the time of his death.

Jock, the Hunter

A famous hunter was Xerxes Jock, one of four French-Canadians who located in the town of Martell before any other settlers came there. He was short and thick, incredibly strong, and he knew all the secrets of woodcraft as well as any Indian.

Unable to read or to write, speaking only the most simple English, Jock left no record of his early life. Some of the pioneers have recorded stories of his hunting exploits.

Thos. Hurley, of Cave Creek, writes:

"In the winter of 1857 Jock had dinnre with us one day, and that same afternoon he killed five elk; next day he killed two more.

"In 1858 he shot an old bear and three cubs, capturing the fourth cub alive; this was down Morton Corners way, four and one-half miles from his cabin. He carried all five bears home at once, the live cub inside the front of his jacket, and he told me the live cub made him more bother than the other four."

Once Jock almost met his finish from a bear. The story became a legend in the Martell country.

A big bear was seen in Gilman and word was taken to Jock, who took his rifle (a muzzle-loader, as all guns were then) and his tomahawk and started out. He caught up with the bear on section 11, on what is now the Lewis Bredahl farm, and shot at it. He missed. The bear was after him in an instant, and when it reached him it knocked Jock's tomahawk into the brush.

It was bear against Frenchman in a desperate struggle, each armed with only his natural weapons, as Jock had no time to even draw his knife. The fight must have been terrible, as even after several days those who came to the place found bushes tramped down for rods around and blood freely spattered on the leaves.

Finally Jock got a wrestler's hold on the bear and threw it far enough so he had time to reach his hunting knife. As the bear came back and seized Jock's right arm in his jaws, Jock with his left hand plunged the knife into the animal.

Then the bear knocked the knife out of Jock's hand.

Jock never could remember how he recovered that knife and stabbed the bear to the heart, but he did. However, Jock's right arm was still held in the bear's death-set teeth. Dragging the bear by the mangled arm, Jock reached a sapling, cut a branch and pried the jaws open.

Even though free, Jock was in a terrible condition. His breast was slit to ribbons, his right arm was a mass of chewed flesh, he was exhausted by the furious struggle, he was faint from loss of blood. However, he managed to get through the brush two and one-half miles to the nearest settler. He fell as he reached the clearing, but the neighbor saw him. Jock had blazed the trail (with blood mostly) so the neighbor went back, got the bear, verified Jock's story.

They took Jock and the bear home to Martell on a stone-boat, where Jock lay several weeks between life and death.

And the first thing after getting up he went bear-hunting.

This Jock had been a mail carrier in the north before coming to Martell, his route about 200 miles from end to end; he made it on foot, averaging 30 miles a day while carrying a 60-pound pack, and killing and cooking his own meals on the way.

Harvey Seeley, Cattle Man

Harvey Seeley was probably the first permanent settler in south-eastern Pierce County, and was certainly the county's first breeder of beef cattle.

In the early 1840's he took up about 700 acres along lower Rush River in what is now the town of Maiden Rock; here there was some natural hay meadow and, what was even better than the hay, large expanses of rushes (they gave the river its name) which cattle—and deer—ate during the winter.

Mr. Seeley had been a lumberman at Stillwater, where he worked ten years for one concern without missing a day. Lumberjacks are hearty meat eaters; meat was scarce and high and the lumberjacks got tired of venison. Mr. Seeley believed that raising beef would be profitable and searched for a place where year-around feeding could be cheaply maintained; he found that place in the Rush River valley in the town of Salem.

Horace McKinstry, also of Stillwater, whose daughter married Mr. Seeley, looked after the business end of the venture, which for awhile was very successful; it is said that Mr. Seeley was worth \$100,000 at one time. But later his health and his mind failed and he lost most of his property. Finally the McKinstrys moved to Maiden Rock, where Mrs. McKinstry died in 1905, aged 96.

Thomas Hurley, Pioneer Farmer

In 1856 Thos. M. Hurley, with his wife and his 14-year-old brother, left their old home at Beloit, Wisconsin, to make a new home in the township of El Paso, shipping all their household goods two weeks ahead. When they came there they brought only three trunks and a small tool-chest. Extra freight on the tool-chest from La Crosse to Prescott was \$14.00. A team to take them to Cave Creek, in El Paso, cost \$15.00, but never got them there, as the "road" ended at Rush River. They were obliged to camp two weeks in a little shanty on the banks of that river before a trail could be cut through to their claim.

Hurley found some good pine lumber at a sawmill near El Paso and bought two loads, to be delivered at Cave Creek; only 400 feet was delivered, the rest being scattered along the trail; but the delivery cost him \$18.00.

The Hurleys were the only family but one living between Martell and the Eau Galle Mills, that other one being a Bailey family at Maple Springs. When the Hurleys reached their claim they found a nice log building with a good shake roof and well chinked with moss just built on the creek bottom near where the Hurley house had been planned; it was a hunters' cabin, put up that spring.

First visitor to the Hurleys was a bear, which was as much astonished as they were. Next came the hunters from the camp—good company as long as it lasted. After the hunters left came swarms of Indians; ten visited the Hurleys Christmas morning, one at a time—insolent and hard to get rid of.

Next summer three German families—George Brill, the Schmidt boys and a Mr. Towser—moved in on the west side of the river; in 1857 George Walker built a sawmill about where the village of El Paso is now, and the Wilkensons and Newmans moved in, so the Hurleys had lots of company. But in winter snows were deep and there were no roads and people could not get out.

These early settlers of German and Irish parentage knew nothing of French-Canadian snow-shoes or Norwegian skiis. On May 1st of 1857 snow was still two feet deep in the woods; it had been at least three and one-half feet deep on the level during the winter.

Mr. Hurley made a trip to Martell and Centerville in March—"the hardest trip I ever made", he said. To show the markets then

he wrote, "I paid \$160 for an old pair of oxen, \$50 for a cow, \$15 for a yearling calf, \$20 for 20 bushels of wheat, \$20 for 20 bushels of frosted corn, \$20 for 20 bushels of oats, \$25 for an old wagon (which the seller agreed to repair up in good shape but failed to do), and 50 cents apiece for chickens, all paid for in gold six weeks before I got the stuff. And the wheat had to be taken to River Falls to be ground.

"Soon afterward we opened a road along the ridge to Wilkens' (at Waverly) which was the best road we ever had and was traveled for years. Those (Waverly) settlers were all Germans, all good neighbors."

The "houses" of those days, log or frame, were scarcely large enough to make one good room in a modern dwelling, but they accommodated the large families of those days, with visitors whenever occasion arose. When a barn or dwelling was to be "raised" word was sent out and neighbors for many miles came to help the newcomer without a thought of any kind of payment.

The hardships endured by those pioneers would have been unbearable had it not been for this spirit of happy helpfulness and unbounded hospitality. The Spanish saying, "My house is yours", was true of every dwelling for every comer.

On the women fell a major share of the pioneer hardships. The housewife not only kept her little home clean and made the most of what food-stuffs she could get, but she was nurse and doctor and comforter to her own family—and the neighbors; she bore many children, without medical aid and under conditions that would be fatal to modern women; she raised much of the family's food in her garden, without help from the men, and she also helped the men in the fields and barns. Company brought pleasure to the rest of the family, extra work to her. Often she was the only teacher her children knew until they became old enough to walk to the distant log school house. In graveyards where the pioneers are buried many a crude stone still gives proof of the truth of the old saying, "One man wears out two women."

Suggestions to Teacher

Who was the first settler in your school district? Do any of the family still live here? Where was his residence? Who have owned the land since then? What others settled in the district in the early times? Do the families still live here? Where are those who have moved away?

MAP OF
PIERCE COUNTY

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION
OF WISCONSIN
STATE OFFICE BUILDING, MADISON, WIS.

SCALE 1" = 10 MILES

ISSUED
JULY 1933



CHAPTER VI

Pierce County in the Civil War

In that same April in which Pierce county's new county seat at Perry saw its first county board meeting, the flag of the Union was pulled down at Fort Sumter and civil war spread its dark cloud over the nation.

In Pierce county at that time were about 1,000 men capable of bearing arms for their country. But of that thousand men, only a very few, it would have seemed, could be spared from the hard, continual struggle to provide even the rude living of those times for their families. Most of those men were young, with dependent families of small children and owning no surplus resources. Many of those who owned farms had cleared only a few acres—not enough to support their families—depending on working for farmers in older settlements, in harvest or threshing, for the extra dollars needed to keep their families alive. To add to the general distress, the depression, which had begun a year or two before the war started, now became deeper; the federal government issued large amounts of paper money to support its increased spendings, which became depreciated so that it could not be passed for its face value; prices of everything but labor rose rapidly as compared with the dollar's buying power. Gold, which had constituted most of the new settlements' circulating medium, disappeared, as it does in every such occasion, being hoarded by its possessors.

Owing to these circumstances, enlistments from Pierce county during the first year of the war were not large. But at the fall meeting of the county board the policy of giving aid for families of volunteers was instituted and was continued throughout the war; several thousand dollars was spent in that way during the war in small sums. Towns also began giving so-called "bounties" for volunteers, bidding against each other; for that reason, men are listed on the rolls as enlisting from the town which paid their "bounty".

It soon became necessary for the nation to force enlistments under a draft system whereby each county was given its quota, this being sub-divided among the towns; in order that those who remained at home might share the burden, bounties were increased and the sums so spent were levied in the taxes. In a country so new and so poor, this made the tax burden in Pierce county so heavy that large areas of land became tax-delinquent; the tax receipts could not be sold and the county was compelled to 'bid in'

the lands at tax sales. Good timber land in the woods dropped to 75 cents an acre, with few purchasers at even that price.

An immediate result was that the county did not collect money enough to pay its running expenses. It began paying its bills in "county orders"—that is, in skrip, redeemable when and if cash became available. Schools were closed or ran on shortened schedules; road work was reduced to the minimum; there was no public building.

But the women and children of the county took up the work laid down by the men. Mothers of three or four small children did their housework, raised their families, yet somehow found time and strength to plant, cultivate and harvest their crops and do their chores. Girls and little boys drove the reapers while their mothers bound and shocked the grain—(the self-binder had not then been invented).

Because of the war blockade of the South, cotton goods such as calico became very scarce; tea and coffee were costly luxuries; sugar (except home-made maple sugar) was not put on the table. Roasted bran, peas or rye, ground in a coffee-mill and steeped, sweetened with maple sugar, made a palatable drink which was varied with tea made from catnip or tender raspberry leaves; sassafras roots, dug in the woods, made another pleasant beverage.

Pierce county has seen trouble and sorrow in other wars and in other depressions since then, but never has seen another time when the trouble and the sorrow reached every person, from the youngest to the oldest, as it did then.

But most of the men came home at last and although many were feeble and sick, the others took up their work again. The era of prosperity which began in Pierce county after the war has its own chapter in this history.

Pierce county in the War. In 1861, first year of the war, more than 150 men enlisted from Pierce county. First enlistments were in Co. G, 4th Wisconsin Infantry, which afterward became the Fourth Wis. Cavalry. This company was organized at Hudson April 19, 1861. First captain was Daniel White of Hudson; Jas. Keefe of Hudson succeeded him, but was promoted and Lieut. Warren P. Knowles, of River Falls, became captain; Jerry Flint, of River Falls, was a lieutenant. Capt. Knowles became sheriff of Pierce county for one term after his discharge. Lieut. Flint became post master at River Falls for several years.

In this company 20 Pierce county men enlisted; of these, three died during the war, one was discharged for disability, 14 remained until mustered out May 28, 1866—a full year after the war terminated, being retained for police duty in the southwestern states.

Daniel J. Dill, of Prescott, enlisted April 27 1861, was chosen captain of Co. B, 6th Wis. Infantry, and recruited a company of 64 Pierce county men who were later joined by 12 more. Capt. Dill became colonel of the 30th Wis. Infantry and Rollin P. Converse, of Prescott became captain; Capt. Converse died in a Rebel hospital from wounds received in the Battle of the Wilderness and Wm. H. Hutchins, of Prescott, became captain. Capt. Hutchins was killed Aug. 19, 1864, and Henry Smyser, also of Prescott, succeeded him. Twelve men of the company died during the war.

Col. Dill was elected to the legislature on his return home and also served on the county board. Dr. A. D. Andrews, of River Falls, surgeon for the company, also served in the legislature; he was a member of the county board and first mayor of the city of River Falls.

John W. Winn, a corporal in the company, lost a leg at the battle of South Mountain. He served as county clerk of Pierce county for seven years and was also post master at Ellsworth; he suggested the name of Ellsworth for the town, in place of Perry, to honor a colonel who was one of the first men killed in the war.

Third company enlisting Pierce county men was Co. F, 1st Wis. Infantry, organized at St. Croix Falls; 26 men from the county enrolled, mostly in August and September of 1861, mostly from the country towns. Of these, three were killed at Chaplin Hills, Ky., and one at Chickamauga; three died in the service.

That same fall a fourth call was made on Pierce county and Co. A, 12th Wis. Infantry, was organized at Prescott, Norman McLeod, of Prescott, being captain; 55 Pierce county men enlisted at first, the number later being increased to 95, of whom 16 died in service.

In the summer of 1862, when it became apparent that the war was no 90-day affair, Pres. Abraham Lincoln issued an urgent call for more men. In July, 30 Pierce county men enlisted in Co. A, 20th Regiment; of these four were killed at Prairie Grove, Ark., and five more died during the war.

D. J. Dill, who had been a captain in Co. B, 6th Wis. Infantry, was commissioned colonel and recruited for a new regiment; Co. A

was organized with 32 Pierce county men in its ranks; Arthur Cox, of River Falls, became its captain. Co. D of this regiment contained 14 Pierce county men, all from Martell and all but two being Norwegians.

In Co. F of this regiment 94 Pierce county men enlisted, seven of whom died in service. First captain was Martin Driebelbis of Prescott, succeeded by Edgar A. Meacham, also of Prescott; L. Dow Gunn, of Prescott, and C. H. Grant, of Diamond Bluff, were lieutenants.

Enlistments from 1862 to 1864 were mostly to fill vacancies caused by death or disability. But in 1864 Co. F, 37th Wis. Infantry, was organized with nine Pierce county men in the ranks, of whom three died in service. Ellsworth Burnett, of River Falls, became captain; he was afterward brevetted major.

Hans B. Warner was a member of that company, enlisting from Martell. He afterward became county clerk, was then elected a member of the legislature, then county judge; he was afterward appointed a member of the state board of control and died while holding that office.

On the rolls of Co. A, 44th Wis. Infantry, were the names of 11 more Pierce county men.

Roster of Volunteers

Co. F, 1st Wis. Regiment—*River Falls*: Thos. H. Brown, Jas. W. Forman, John A. Houston, Samuel Jackson, Richard Lovell (killed in action), Isaac N. Nichols, Roswell Pratt, Jas. A. Warner, John G. White; *Prescott*: S. W. Button, Joseph Hebert Sr., Joseph Hebert Jr., Chris Manser, Geo. W. Wing; *Trimbelle*: Hiram Bennett (killed in action), Hiram J. Bennett, John F. Parmeter, Wm. Wilkenson; *Diamond Bluff*: L. B. Bickford, John Saxton, Dan Turner; Wm. Wilkenson; *Maiden Rock*: Thos. Hudson; *Oak Grove*: John A. Hunter; *Martell*: Peter O'Connor, Thos. O'Connor, John Phillips.

Co. G, 1st Wis. Regiment—*Prescott*: N. N. Anderson (died of wounds), John Williams.

Co. G, 4th Wis. Infantry (Fourth Cavalry)—*River Falls*: Warren P. Knowles, Jerrey E. Flint, Dexter Balcom, Andrew Bennett, Lyman Carlton, Ossian Hicks, Wm. F. Johnson (died in service), C. G. Knowles, David Lovell, Wm. H. Nichols, R. V. Pratt, Geo. T. Randall (died in service), Jas. M. Tozer, J. M. Wadsworth,

Wm. H. Winchester; *Prescott*: Jesse Hamilton; *Trimbelle*: Wilson McAllister; *Ellsworth*: John Tinker.

Co. B, 6th Regiment—*Prescott*: Daniel J. Dill, Rollin P. Converse (died of wounds), Wm. Hutchins (killed in action), Henry E. Smyser, John F. Marsh, Henry E. Serrill, Chas. P. Hyatt, Solomon Holman, Darwin Kinney, Marvin Boughton, Chas. H. Bruce, Geo. R. Clements, Wm. E. Evans (died of wounds), Richard Fielding, Michael Fitch, Jeremiah Heath, Wm. Howes, Amos Keeler (died of wounds), Chas. A. Keeler, Isaiah Kelly, Jas. Kelly (died of wounds) Philo Kelly, Silas Lowery, Louis Ludloff, Adolphus Mallory (killed in action), Jas. McEwin, A. W. Myers, John Newton, Joseph Pond, Jas. Richardson (killed in action), A. L. Roberts, Ainsworth Saunders, Jas. A. Smith, Jas. Wells; *Clifton*: T. M. Alverson (died of wounds), John W. Winn; *Oak Grove*: Geo. C. Barrett (killed in action), Wm. Douglass, Franklin Hall, Jerome Hall, Peter Hanson, Leverett Hall, Oren Isham, Siles Morrison; *Beldenville*: Wm. Foust (killed in action); *Diamond Bluff*: Samuel French, J. M. Taylor, Robert Tomlinson, T. H. Williams, A. B. Wilson (killed in action); *Maiden Rock*: Alex Frier, Jas. R. W. Harvey; *Trimbelle*: Edgar B. Armstrong, Jas. S. Armstrong, Jerome Beardsley, Frederick Gluth (killed in action), Frank Hare, Sam Jamison, John H. McLaughlin, Chas. L. Steiner, Samuel Wells; *Martell*: Andrew Johnson, Iver Mikkelson, Lewis Nelson; *Salem*: Hezekiah Matson; *Perry*: Benj. Meeds; *El Paso*: A. A. Spencer.

Co. A, 12th Regiment—*Prescott*: Norman McLeod, Orrin Maxson, Francis Hoyt, L. B. Aldrich, Bartlett Ashbaugh, Florence Baker, Albert Barrett, Ezra Bartlett, John Borner, Ezra Broughton, Hart Broughton, Jeremiah Canniff, E. O. Cleveland, J. M. Copp, John Crippen, Jasper George, N. K. Hammar, C. Hanningson, Walter Howes, Jas. Holman, Chester Holman, Sam Huddleston, W. G. Hunt, B. Hyatt, Sidney Hyatt, C. E. Meacham, John McConnell, John McCallum, Jas. McGeorge, E. V. McLeod, John McMillan, Jas. Miley (killed in action), Chas. Miller, Alonzo Miller, Geo. F. Miles, J. O. Oleson (killed in action), John Quirk, G. W. Tickner, Chas. H. Tickner, John Whipple, Robert Wilson, Chas. W. Wright, Chas. E. Young, Joseph Young, John F. Young; *Diamond Bluff*: N. Blaisdell, Richard Costello, Royal Garland, G. W. Hope, John Hunter, John H. Tomlinson, Pratt J. Wiley; *Perry*: Alva S. Beardsley,

David McLaughlin; *Clifton Mills*: Wm. A. Burnett, Leander Davis, Chas. Fisher, Erastus Lester, J. M. Merriman, J. B. Rogers, R. A. Weed; *River Falls*: John Caruthers, Jas. Colgan, Wm. T. Connolly, Wilbur P. Dale, Ed Deyarmond, S. W. Dickenson, E. G. Farnsworth, Jas. Gibbs, A. Gibson, Robert Gibson, Geo. H. D. Goodwin, Miles Hawley, Chester Higbee, M. D. Kinney, E. D. Levings, Homer Levings, Horace Loring, Anthony Olin, Jacob Patterson, Lewis Reynolds, Joseph Severance, L. C. Styles, E. C. Tubbs, John Wells, H. E. Weston, Ira A. Williams, Clark M. Williams, Wesley Wiley; *El Paso*: Ed Gallagher; *Martell*: Frederick Garlt, H. C. A. Gilstad, W. H. Hull, Torbein Hulverson, Peter Nelson, John C. Rockstad, Ole C. Rockstad, E. G. Skorness, M. E. Syness, R. A. Whitlock, H. S. Widlin; *Trimbelle*: Wm. S. Jay, John A. Otis, A. F. Ottman; *Trenton*: David McPilson, W. L. H. Pumplun; *Hartland*: Paul Wheeler.

Co. A, 20th Regiment—*Prescott*: Wm. H. York, Horace S. Baker, Joseph Barber, Andrew Hammar, Frank Rice, Robert Welshouse (died of wounds); *Trimbelle*: Geo. W. Bennett, A. H. Cooper, Patrick Dean, John A. Smith, John Weston (killed in action), Edward Weston; *Maiden Rock*: Joshua Brown, Williamson Brownlee, Abraham Gossett, E. McLaughlin, M. J. Paine, Wm. Riley, Herbert Snow, Palmer Thomas, Geo. Davis; *River Falls*: Geo. W. Flint, A. L. Gordon, Matthew Kline, Thos. Randall (died of disease); *Perry*: Anthony Huddleston, Warren Kinney, Edgar Russ; *Beldenville*: Wesley Lawton, Silas B. Parmeter, Wm. Wilkinson; *Greenfield*: Thos. M. Nelson, Wm. Ridgeman.

Co. A, 30th Regiment—*Prescott*: Daniel J. Dill, Geo. B. Merrick; *Diamond Bluff*: Edward Rogers; *River Falls*: Myron Packard, Arthur Cox, Ellsworth Burnett, Israel Childs, Greenleaf Doe, Cyrus Farnsworth, Phineas C. Flint, Chas. A. Hawley, Ezra Healey, A. J. Hotchkiss, A. C. Hotchkiss, Geo. Martin, T. W. Nichols, Stephen Nye, Allen Pratt, Lewis Reynolds, Thos. Stephens, Silas A. Wells, Benj. J. Williams; *Trimbelle*: R. S. Andrews, Wm. Hall, Sam'l Irvine, Geo. Patridge, Gilbert R. Thurston, Isaac Weston; *Clifton*: John Burnett, G. W. Currier, B. R. Eaton, A. J. Goodwin; *Oak Grove*: J. Hamilton; *Hartland*: Chas. Logan; *Martell*: Wm. H. H. Babcock, Robt. J. Hampton, E. Iverson, Jacob Iverson, Olaus Larson, Andrew Larson, John Nelson,

Amund Olson, Thron Olson, Nels Peterson, Halvor Peterson, Nels Olson Thoen, Hans Peter Thoen.

Co. F, 30th Regiment—*Prescott*: Martin Driebelbis, Edgar A. Meacham, L. Dow Gunn, C. W. Atwood, Anson Bancroft, Seldon Bartholomew, H. G. Bennett, E. H. Boustead, Lewis Bossoutt, Clark W. Brown, H. G. Carr, W. M. Cumby, Chas. Danforth, Allen Falls, C. H. Franklin, Corwin Gregory, Manley Healey Jr., H. W. Holmes, Geo. W. Houghteling, Augustus McCarty, Duncan D. McLennan, John M. Miller, L. J. Moody, John Needham, Lafayette Parker, Bela E. Pettis, Eli Preble, Andrew Rader, F. O. E. Rowley, Jas. Russell, Geo. H. Weiser, Jack Wilson; *Diamond Bluff*: Chas. H. Grant, Lyman Bickford, Leander L. W. Davis, W. F. Keyster, Franklin Laberee, John L. Messer, Chas. M. Winter; *Trimbelle*: D. H. Baker, G. W. Beardsley, C. L. Beardsley, Henry H. Boughton, J. W. Cornelison, Abel Cudd, Edward Dailey, Joseph Dauser, J. H. Fuller, A. C. Hathaway, Frank Keriger, Wm. H. Mason, Reuben Miner, Edwin P. Smith; *Perry*: F. J. Birkel, Alexander Campbell, M. C. Dunbar, Wilson Kinney, Barney Maynard, W. C. Potter; *Hartland*: Daniel Butterfield, Wm. P. Lyon, Joseph Sleeper; *Clifton*: A. M. Childs, Edward Harmoan, Martin Hill, Malcolm McDonald, Geo. Pierce Wm. W. Shafer, Alpha Walter, Nelson M. West; *Martell*: F. M. Crawford, Ole Peterson, Matthias T. Winger; *Oak Grove*: Frederick A. Cross, W. W. Hall, David Hall, Loan Marh, Nicholas Nopp, Joseph Richert, John Schommer, Peter M. Simons, Thaddeus J. West, Wm. A. West; *River Falls*: H. S. Hamblin, Joseph D. Hilton, Andrew Kinney, Freeman H. Lord, Jas. McDonald, Ambrose Stowell, John G. White.

Co. F, 37th Regiment—*River Falls*: E. Burnett, Hollis Carlton, Peter McMahon, Chas. H. Randall, J. W. Winchester, Pembroke V. Wise; *Clifton*: John Atchison, Gardner L. Gordon, Joseph A. Rollins; *Prescott*: David M. Pulk.

Co. G, 37th Regiment—*Clifton*: Hans B. Warner.

Co. A, 44th Regiment—*Martell*: Asahel R. Baker, John Breittinger, B. H. Gilman, John Peterson, Christian Peterson; *Oak Grove*: Gilbert Bowen; *River Falls*: Francis E. Doe, Edmund Kinney, Sherlock Wales; *Trenton*: Henry Gormley, Alexander Gormley.

CHAPTER VII

Pierce County in the World War

When the World War broke in August, 1914, it found all the world except Germany unprepared. Here in America a few thoughtful men at once knew that if the war should not be concluded in a short time the United States would inevitably be drawn into the struggle, but most of the people considered it as none of our business, except as a chance to profit by the European demand for foods, metals and ammunition.

Here in Pierce county farmers profited by inflated prices for grain and other food stuffs, and our working men who went to the cities profited by the high wages in ammunition factories. Money was plenty.

A few of our more adventurous young men went to Canada or to Europe and enlisted. Meanwhile both sides in the conflict began a campaign to influence public opinion here in their favor, as both realized that America's decision as to which side to aid would probably decide the outcome of the struggle. It became clear to most Americans that United States interests lay on the side of the Allies, and when President Wilson on April 6, 1917, asked Congress to declare that a state of war with Germany already existed, no one was surprised.

Even after three years of warning, however, the country was unprepared for war. Congress floated a popular loan of "Liberty bonds" to the huge amount (at that time) of \$5,000,000, which were sold by drives conducted by bankers and others to practically every family. To conserve U. S. resources President Wilson appointed Herbert C. Hoover, who had become world-known by his organizations to save the populations of Belgium and Poland from starvation, as food administrator, and rules governing food saving enabled the U. S. to help feed Europe.

Volunteers were called for, but it was seen at once that only a draft would secure enough young men to make an army. At the national registration June 5, 1917, nearly nine million men registered in the U. S., Pierce county registering 1804.

First draft called for 687,000 men, each state being given a quota, which was sub-divided; Pierce county's first quota was 130 and 260 were called, allowing half for rejections.

Previous to this call there had been many voluntary enlistments from the county.

Ralph Anderson, Beldenville, pneumonia; George Andrie, River Falls, meningitis; Otis Bjornson, Ellsworth, pneumonia; William Brooks, River Falls, influenza; Michael Brunner, Plum City, pneumonia; Lawrence Carston, Maiden Rock, pneumonia; Albert Crain, Elmwood, pneumonia; Jack Costello, Prescott, killed in action; Ernest Erickson, Spring Valley, killed in action; Peter A. Erickson, Ellsworth, pneumonia; John Falteisek, River Falls, influenza; Walter Finn, Ellsworth, gassed; Laurie Florness, River Falls, pneumonia; Peter A. Forsythe, Martell, disease; Ren Henry Greene, Rock Elm, influenza; Melvin Hamman, Prescott, influenza; Walter E. Hassel, Maiden Rock, killed in action; Edwin Jahr, Beldenville, killed in action; Emil Johnson, Beldenville, died of wounds; George Kelley, Plum City, influenza; Eldon Kinne, Ellsworth, pneumonia; Fred Klein, Ellsworth, pneumonia; Arthur Krogstad, Maiden Rock, disease; Clarence Lawrence, River Falls, pneumonia; Clair Lewiston, Spring Valley, killed in action; Edgar Linder, El Paso, disease; Wm. Mattison, Spring Valley, killed in action; Myron George Moore, Ellsworth, pneumonia; John Neppl, Ellsworth, pneumonia; Peter Nytron, Spring Valley, influenza; Geo. O'Connell, El Paso, pneumonia; Oscar W. Olson, Maiden Rock, pneumonia; Howard Patterson, Maiden Rock, killed in action; Benjamin Peterson, Hager City, pneumonia; Ralph Rickerd, Spring Valley, killed in action; Robert C. Stein, Spring Valley, pneumonia; Albert I. Stein, Spring Valley, pneumonia; E. F. L. Snyder, Ellsworth, accident; Lewis Volesky, Ellsworth, influenza; Edward Wurtz, Rock Elm, influenza.

Others in Service from County

Many of the following enlisted in other states, some in foreign countries, but all were credited to the places named here:

Bay City—Ludwig Anderson, Oscar Anderson, Frank Bach, Wm. Bach, Wm. Bender, Donald Bolin, Gustav Bolin, Leuallen Brenner, Walter Brenner, Clarence Brohaugh, Adam Brown, Jesse Brown, Edward Bryneldson, Fred Cederberg, Thos. Convoy, Gustav Dahlgren, Henry Claus Decker, Walter Dosdall, Oscar Enblom, Geo. Enghusen, Ralph Enghusen, Ray Enghusen, John H. Erickson, Raymond Esterby, Wm. Arthur Esterby, N.J. Foster, Adolph M. Hanson, Ralph Wm. Hanson, Nels Johnson, Kenneth Kezer, Helmer Lien, Ingman Lien, Arthur Lynner, Harry Clarence

Lund, Arthur McHardy, Austin Miller, Arthur Olson, Geo. F. Perkins, Reuben Peterson, John Edward Reed, Francis Roatch, Lawrence Scheide, Otto Schrimpf, Harold Sharp, Gustav Shogren, Arthur Smith, Claus Swanson, Reuben Andrew Swanson, Everette Taylor, Jesse Taylor, Roy Taylor, Marion Thompson, Lars Torseth, Henry Tostenson, Fred Velander, Robert Wallen, Geo. Whipple, John Whipple, Millard Youmans, Earl Youmans.

Beldenville—Casper G. Aaberg, Herman C. A. Aaberg, Walter Aaberg, Frank Anderson, C.A. Bjerkeng, Willie Christenson, Oscar Drolsom, Carl W. Evenson, Carl Finstad, Geo. W. Finstad, Lester Finstad, Frederick Gilbertson, Victor Gilbertson, Louis H. Greeley, Perley Husfluen, Eddie Haugrose, Elmer Haugrose, Orin Wm. Haugrose, Chas. L. Heacox, Henry C. Heblox, Solon H. Hendrickson, Alfred H. Hobbs, Oscar Jahr, Edwin Jahr, Emil Johnson, Oscar B. Jacobson, Chas. Jorgenson, Harvey Jacobson, Archie C. Larson, Alfred C. Larson, Harvey Larson, Oscar M. Larson, Raymond Larson, Lars M. Larson, Christian Lien, Anchor L. Lund, Granville M. Mossing, Henry Norderhaug, Irving Parmeter, Lloyd Parmeter, Edmund Place, Melvin S. Place, Orval L. Peterson, Oscar S. Peterson, Melvin Overby, Arthur Sangsland, John Shern, Adolph Shern, Gunder Teubert, Henry Teubert, Lester Truesdill, Elmer Westerdahl.

Diamond Bluff—Irvine Benson, Harry Benson, W. J. Bourgholtzer, Franklin Carlson, Walter Gantenbein, Victor Gantenbein, Leslie Garber, Hugh Francis Gartland, Clifford Kish, Charlie Langer, Harry Madsen, Roy McKeen, Ralph McKeen, Guy McCusker, Lee McCusker, Eugene Nadeau, Lee Edwin Niles, Wm. Nash, Arthur Nelson, Elton Oellrich, Carl B. Peterson, Leif Rynning, Robert Scharfenberg, Walter Werner.

Ellsworth—Clair Adams, Raymond Adams, Carl Ames, Alric Anderson, Bernard T. Anderson, Frank J. Anderson, Harold B. Anderson, Clark W. Baarley, Harry Barkuloo, Matthew Beckler, Tony Beckler, Floyd Beddall, Bengt Bengtson, Ernest Birkel, Anton Bjork, Henry Bjornstad, John A. Blomgren, Joseph E. Blomgren, Earl Boles, David Boles, Daniel V. Boothe, Matthew Bristle, Clark W. Brown, Floyd Buck, Hugh Buck, Thomas Buck, Chester H. Byrnes, Benjamin Bystrom, Carl Bystrom, Archie P. Campbell, Chas. L. Campbell, Earl Collamore, Hallie Cornman, Carl Dahl, Oscar B. Danielson, Reuben Davison, Erick Detert, Geo. J. Devine, Albert Dickie, Rufus Druding, Willie Ecklund,

Howard L. Elliott, John W. Elliott, Leland D. Elliott, Enos Engelhart, Earl W. English, Lambert Fasbender, Darwin Fink, Eldon J. Finn, Raymond Fink, Michael Fitzpatrick, Claire Flanners, John Flynn, Fred Goldsmith, Wm. Goodier, Harry Gordon, Thos. J. Gordon, Arthur Gotzman, Walter Gotzman, Aloysius Graetz, Chas. Greeley, Julius Greeley, Otto Greske, Milton C. Guest, Audolph Gustafson, Chas. Haessley, August Hageman, Soren J. Halls, John Hamilton, Frank I. Hansen, Lewis M. Hansen, Albert Hanson, George Hanson, Leo M. Harris, Edward Haymert, Roy Helgeson, Silas Helgeson, Will Helgeson, Ernest M. Hines, Earl Holmer, Herbert Hope, Arthur Huber, Edward Huber, Emil Huber, Fred Huber, A. Wayne Ingli, Arthur Jackson, Walter Jackson, Emil Janisch, Will Janisch, Jacob Jensen, Edward V. Johnson, Fred Johnson, Herman Johnson, Fred Johnson, Levi Johnson, Reuben Johnson, Herman L. Jones, Einar C. Jurgenson, Frank Jutrowski, Harry Kennal, Melvin Kennal, Milton Kezer, Royce Kinne, Wm. Kirchner, Walter Klein, Ertman Kuschel, Frank B. Langer, Ulysses H. Lantz, Frank M. Larson, Herbert Leach, Floyd Lewis, Fred Locke, Albert B. Lord, Geo. A. Magee, Joseph Mark, Theo. J. Mark, Ralph Maynard, Chas. McAleavey, Eugene McDonnell, Chas. McGillis, Irvin Meacham, Leon A. Merriman, Peter Mickelson, Reuben Molander, Edward Monson, Floyd Morrow, Roy D. Morton, Francis T. Murphy, Jas. L. Murphy, Leslie Murphy, John Herman Myher, Michael E. Nugent, Adolph Olsen, Arthur H. Olson, Halvor Olson, Herbert Olson, Louis Olson, Oscar F. Olson, Milton Opsal, Everal Perkins, Harold Peterson, Ralph Peterson, Reuben Peterson, Gustav Place, Martin Place, Millard Powers, Vernon Powers, E. Lee Preston, Arthur Quinn, Wm. Quinn, Glenn Ranney, Clyde L. Reed, Edwin M. Reed, Wm. Richter, Howard Rice, Lloyd W. Rice, Sumner A. Rice, Walter Rice, Leroy Rosier, Chester T. Rudolph, Wm. F. Rudolph, Aurelius Sanderson, Chas. Sandstrom, Howard Sargent, Robert Sargent, Emil Satter, Mark L. Saxton, Vernon Scheid, Garrie Schulte, Paul Schultz, Frank Shannon, Leo Shannon, Patrick Shannon, Ray Shannon, Ralph Snow, Raymond J. Sorenson, Frank Spevak, John Spott, Irvin O. Steen, Barney F. Steiner, Frank E. Steiner, Theo. Steiner, Frank Stoetzel, Lloyd Taggart, Albert Thom, Evelyn Thoner, Anton Thoreson, Wm. Earl Thurston, Joseph Thurston, Orville R. To-mann, Robert Trask, Vyven Vance, John Vezina, Helmer Wallin,

Daniel E. Welch, Frank Welch, Chris Wenzel, Walter Wenzel, Roy Whipple, James Jesse Wirth, Frank G. Woodworth.

Elmwood—Almund Austin, Hector BaDour, Edson Condit, Car Crain, Arthur Dahlberg, Carl Dahlberg, Walter L. Engledinger, Norman Franklin, Chas. F. Gardiner, John Gauvin, John Ginsbach, R. W. Groot, Herman Haack, LaVergne Hammond, Oscar Hanson, Earl Howard, Roy Jenkins, Derby Keyser, Clarence Krammes, Willie Krause, Joseph E. Langer, Orin Lee, Jas. Lotz, Ben Maxfield, John McCardle, Guy Meehan, Clarence Meyers, Emil W. Meyers, Chas. H. Rodewald, John Rofuth, Frank Schoeder, Martin Schoeder, Andrew Scritchfield, Irvin Smith, Albert Trealoff, Frank Trealoff, Paul Trealoff, Claud Teeters, Earl VanSchoonhoven, Shirley Wheeler, Warren S. York, John Young.

Hager City—Paul Anderson, John Brown, Emil Christensen, Irving Christensen, Harry Connors, Ernest Dahl, Carl De Jager, Emil Erickson, Raymond Hilden, Albin Johnson, Ralph Knutson, Henry Lind, Frank Mischke, Otto Peterson, Olaf Reitan, Ben Rigelman, David Skarman, Fredolph Swanson, Theo. Swanson.

Maiden Rock—Geo. Adams, Carl Anderson, Lorents Anderson, Martin Anderson, Clarence Bergman, Carl Bergstrom, Franz Bergstrom, Julius Bergstrom, Cecil Bolin, Lewis Bolin, Jess G. Brown, Frank Brunner, Milo D. Burgess, Eles Carlson, Fred Carlson, Reuben Carlson, Ray H. Carpenter, Roy Carpenter, Fred Carson, Edward Coulson, Elmer Frost, Geo. Freeman, Howard H. Fuller, Jerome Gifford, Hans Hager, Clarence Hague, Orsleff Hansen, Elvin Hanson, Harry Hawkinson, David Hoffman, Hilding Hoffman, Clarence Holt, Sam J. Hunn, Marvin Jennings, Carl J. Johnson, Hilding Johnson, Ray Johnson, Ray Johnson, Geo. Julian, Walter Julian, George Kassera, Robert Kassera, Clarence Krogstad, Leon E. Larson, Ben Leavitt, Vern Leavett, Wm. Leavett, Walter Magadanz, Joseph Magnusen, John R. Maier, Vernon L. Marsh, Christian Mathys, Clarence Mattson, Adolph Melrose, Clarence Mickelson, Leonard Morrison, Anton Morth, Floyd Newstrom, Royce Newstrom, Paul Nord, Clarence Olson, Harry Oss, Frank E. Peters, Nick Peters, Ernest Peterson, Albert Priess, Chas. T. Priess, Edwin Priess, Wesley Roberts, Oscar Settergren, Frank L. Smith, Harvey G. Smith, Geo. E. Sterrett, John Sticht, Edward Stiles, Lyle Stockwell, Carl Sundell, Mitchell Todd, Earl Watkins, Ellsworth Weekes, Roy

Wheeler, Ralph B. White.

Martell—Orin J. Aasterud, Andrew Flattum, Edwin O. Forseth, Victor E. Forseth, John Frederick Forsythe, Ferdinand Fosmo, John Fosmo, Olaf Fosmo, Newell Qualle, Harvey Stark, Randolph Thompson.

Plum City—Anton Bechel, George Bechel, Mattie Bechel, Roy Bergholtz, Arthur Bergman, Emil Bergman, Geo. F. Bien, Roy Bloomstrom, C. J. Brown, John M. Cotter, Gerald Darcy, Hardie Engberg, Richard H. Folsom, Hubert B. Fox, Joseph John Hei, Lawrence Helmueller, Allen Hight, John P. Hoch, Frank Hophan, Mike Hophan, Wm. J. Hophan, Frank W. Johnson, Casper Kannel, George Kannel, Christopher Krebsbach, John Krebsbach, Joseph Kilgrain, Roy Kilgrain, Byron Littlefield, Alfred Michel, Harry Nelson, Peter Newberg, Albin Olson, Alfred Olson, Andrew Pearson, Claude W. Reagan, Frank Roth, Geo. Sagstetter, Matt Sagstetter, John J. Schmitt, Michael B. Schmitt, Joseph Schoenberger, Richard Schultz, Fred Schwab, Harry Schwedes, Henry Sobottka, Edward D. Suter, Wm. J. Suter, Ray VanSchoonhoven.

Prescott—Edward Ahlgren, Carl Oscar Anderson, Leo Armbruster, Harold Baker, Merle Baker, Geo. Beeler, John J. Beskav, Marvin Betzel, Chas. L. Boetzel, Arthur Borowick, Everett Brendemuehl, F. Brendemuehl, John L. Burns, Wm. J. Burns, Dell Clements, Reuben Clemens, Mark Costelloe, Lyle Cubitt, Ray Cubitt, Winnie Davis, C. A. Dawson, David Deiss, Wm. S. Edwards, Frank Eichman, Olaf Erickson, Geo. Leo Giebler, Henry Goodwin, Arthur E. Griffin, Eddo Gunkler, Louis Hambricht, Edwin Hanson, Otis Harvey, Warren Heimstra, Henry Hildebrandt, Lester Hines, Raymond Hines, Oscar Holtz, Andrew Huppert, Wm. Huppert, Axel Johnson, Lloyd Keller, Herman Kuss, Floyd Leseman, Gust F. Lipke, Edward Lorensen, Harry Lorentsen, Geo. E. Mercord, Edward Miller, Sidney Moyer, John Murray, Wm. D. Murray, Ed Pechacek, Adolph Peterson, John Peterson, Reginald Price, Henry Reeck, Joseph Russell, Louis Russell, Albert M. Schmitt, Geo. Schmidt, Edward Schommer, Edward Simon, Fred Simon, Theodore Simon, Louis Stark, Walter A. Swanson, Albert Tronnier, Edward Tronnier, Lyman Weekes, Wyman Weeks, John Edmund Wehrman, Robert Wehrman, Frank Weyh, David Williamson, Robert Williamson, Fred Wolf.

River Falls—Douglas Allard, Alvin Anderson, Helmar Anderson, Henry Anderson, Amil Andrie, Earl Baird, Norman Baird, Elmer Bakke, Fred Baldwin, Arthur Bennett, Adolph Bergseng, Arthur Betterley, Clarence Betterley, Paul Bird, Alfred Bjerstedt, Emil Bjerstedt, Fred Bjerstedt, Harvey Bliss, Chas. V. Boothby, Chas. Boothby, Ignatius Brooks, Gregory Busby, Leonard Carolan, Marvin Carolan, Dwight Chinnock, Randall Chinnock, Roderrick Chinnock, Stanley Chinnock, Armond Christianson, Manley Clark, Fred Clobes, Frank Cobian, Joseph Cobian, Chas. Corcoran, Chas. N. Cox, Paul Cudd, Robert Cudd, Earl Currie, Albert Davidson, Erwin Davidson, Ralph Davis, Ben Deiss, Arthur Dodge, Everett Dodge, Edward Doorak, Clyde Dopkins, Elmo Dopkins, Russell Drake, Bion Elliott, Wilbur P. Ensign, Isaac Erickson, Monroe Erickson, Ganus Vincent Fait, Joseph Filkens, Leo Finn, Thos. Finlay, Elmer Fischer, Chas. Foley, Francis Foley, Arthur Foss, Ludwig Franzen, Dr. A. E. Gendron, Fred Gevers, Joseph Gregor, Julius Gregor, Wenzel Gregor, Glenn Griffey, Norval W. Haddow, Arthur Hall, Clelle Hall, Halyor O. Halvorson, L. M. Hauan, Alvin Hawkinson, Manley Healey, Clarence Herum, Halvard Herum, LeRoy Herum, Fred Higgins, Jack Higgins, Samuel Hunter, Geo. Janish, Herman Jenson, Harry Johnson, Joseph Johnson, Stanley Johnson, Wm. Johnson, Leo Kelley, Clay Kent, Varney Kent, Joseph Kordovsky, Leonard Kordovsky, Joseph Kuckucka, Thos. Kuckucka, Gerhart Kulstad, Thos. D. Larson, Geo. Leida, Joseph Loida, Floyd Lovell, Harry Luberg, Tyrus Lunger, Lawrence Mallory, Louis J. Manion, Virgil Manion, Forest McCue, Geo. Megorden, Ned Moe, Leonard Moline, Archie Morrow, Hector Morrow, Jas. Morrow, Stanley Morse, Herman Moser, Earl Moulton, Edward Murphy, John S. Murphy, Oscar Nebal, Harold Nebel, Andy A. Nelson, Martin Nelson, Wm. Burnett Nichols, Roy Nordby, Walter Nordby, Wayland Olinney, Frank Parrish, Alfred Peterson, Ernest H. Peterson, Floyd Peterson, Lloyd Peterson, Orson B. Pratt, Elbert Randall, Jas. Richards, Harold Ridthey, Flavel Robey, Bennie Rockstad, Harry E. Roese, Dean Rogers, Joseph Ruport, Robert A. Scott, Roy Segerstrom, Thor Severson, Thor J. Severson, Clinton Sherburne, Alfred Simonson, Douglas Smith, Jefferson Smith, Richard Smith, Phillip Snodgrass, Lester Soli, Arthur Striebel, Fred Striebel, Chas. Sylvester, Richard Sylvester, Frank A. Symes, Jesse Symes, Percy Symes, Edward Tayerle, Edward P. Tayerle,

Hollis R. Taylor, C. Lawrence Thompson, Frank Tyler, John Tyler, Arthur Upgren, Robert Wasson, Oscar, J. Weberg, Wm. A. Wells, Dallas White, Kenneth S. White, Lynn White, Jonas Wiger, Chas. Wilcox, Elwood Wilcox, Monroe Wilson, Alex Winberg.

Rock Elm—Lloyd Abair, Guy Alexander, Lauren Alexander, Emil Baker, Edward C. Balfanz, Chas. Bee, Alfred Betterley, Bennie Betterley, Otis Betterley, Roy H. Brown, Russell Crownhart, Stephen Donahue, Thos. Farrell, George Leon Fitzgerald, Sheldon Fox, Ralph Garfield, Wm. Golden, Frank Grant, Patrick H. Grant, Sherman Grant, Raymond J. Greer, Arthur Kelley, James H. Kelley, Vernon Kilgore, August F. Krause, Archie Lafferty, George Lafferty, Frank J. Langer, Orvie Lansing, Ole Larson, Will F. Martin, John Jay McCann, Richard McCadle, Franz Meier, Merton Mercer, Johnnie O'Connel, Edwin C. Smith, Chas. V. Traynor, Wm. M. Traynor, Clarence Watkins, Day Wells, Rollie Witt.

Spring Valley—Otis Aamodt, John Ailport, Chris Alms, Edward Anderson, Edwin Anderson, Gerhart Anderson, Helmer Anderson, Milton Anderson, Oscar Anderson, Oscar M. Anderson, Lloyd Armstrong, A. Corvin Arneson, Clifford Arneson, Ralph Bahr, Herman Bashaw, Harvey Bates, Louis Beck, Marius Bergevin, Louis Bjornstad, Oscar Bjornstad, Peter Blegen, W. E. Buckley, Leonard Bune, Levis R. Bune, Carl L. Carlson, John M. Conway, Ray S. Cooke, Percy Coone, Erwin Cudd, Ben Danielson, Oscar Danielson, Gail Davis, Vernon Davis, Adolph Falde, Clarence Gaarden, Frank Garfield, James A. Garfield, Edwin Garlie, Palmer Geving, Harry Gilbert, Lynn Gilmore, Arthur Greer, Rudolph Gregerson, Alfred Hanson, Freeman Hanson, John C. Hanson, Wm. W. Hanson, Sylvester Harrington, Helmut Hinzman, John Hinzman, Alvin Holerud, Carl Holerud, Lawrence Hunter, Ernest Hurtgen, Herman Hurtgen, Arthur Isaacson, Vivian Isaacson, Ralph Jackson, Arthur Jacobson, Miles Jennings, Severean Jensen, Henry Johnson, Helmer Julson, Julius Julson, Herbert Kaasen, Joseph Kahut, Arthur Kamke, Guy Kay, Howard Kay, Earl Kennedy, Henry Kirk, Carl Kittelson, Severin Kittelson, Martin Krumheuer, Herbert Kuehn, Elmer Kuehn, Clair LaGrandier, Casper Larson, Toby Larson, Oscar Linneberg, Ole Lee, Arthur Lewiston, Melvin Madson, Lester Mechling, Nels Nelson, J. Arthur Nyeggen, Edward Nyhus, Peter Nyhus, Sigwart Nyhus, Alfred Olson, Alf E. Olson,

Juel Olson, Emil Olson, Ole M. Olson, Minnard Olsen, Alex Paulson, Homer Pence, Kenneth Persons, Alex Petan, Carl Peterson, Hans Peterson, Levi Peterson, Peter Nordahl Peterson, Herman Pierce, Harvey M. Preston, George Rickerd, Alfred Roe, Henry Sorenson, Edward Starkey, Albert Sweeney, Walter Sweeney, Clifford Taylor, Louis Thompson, Maurice Tio, Edward Tollofson, Arthur Thoreson, Henry Tousley, Earl Vanasse, Arthur Wagner, Fred Wagner, Clark Webb, Hollis Webster, Odin Wenum, Guy Wiff, Frank Wolf; credited to *Arkansaw, Pepin county*, but living in Union town—Frank Gilles, Joseph Gilles, Louis Gilles, Joseph M. Hei, Peter Hei, Joseph Kannel, Jacob Klein, Fred Sands; credited to *Baldwin, St. Croix county*, but living in Gilman town—Harvey E. Hanson, Wycliffe Olson; credited to *Stockholm, Pepin county*, but living in Maiden Rock town—Elmer Backlund, Harry Coleman, Oscar S. Lewis, Wm. J. Nelson, Dorrance Newstrom.

Suggestions to Teacher

What World War veterans live in your school district? Were any of those engaged in that war from your district killed in action, or otherwise distinguished? Get stories from those who have a story to tell (and that is nearly every one of them) and have them written up and filed in your school library; if especially interesting, ask your local papers to publish them over the writers' names.

CHAPTER VIII

Agriculture in Pierce County

Pierce County Agricultural Society

In the winter of 1856 the Pierce County Agricultural Society was organized at a meeting at Clifton Mills, its active promoters being Osborne Strahl, Mason Stone, Jonathan Bailey, Dexter B. Bailey, Smith R. Gunn, Ellsworth Childs and George May Powell, of River Falls, and Oliver Gibbs, of Prescott.

First fair was held at River Falls Sept. 24 and 25, 1856. It was so successful that a second fair was held there in 1857. In 1858 the fair first featured horse racing.

By this time the fair at River Falls was being held under the name of The Northwestern Union Agricultural Society and the Prescott farmers had taken over the name of Pierce County Agricultural Society. The county board that fall voted \$100 to support the Prescott fair and the River Falls society quit in disgust.

Fairs were held at Prescott for several years.

A plot of ground was fenced in and a nice building erected.

In 1858 the State Agricultural Society offered a silk banner costing \$130 to the county making the best display of farm and garden products at the state fair. Pierce County won that banner.

Among the exhibits which won the banner was a bushel of white winter wheat grown by Robert M. Sproul, of Hartland. This wheat was afterward sent to the London Crystal Palace Exposition and won the world's highest award. John Hurley, of El Paso, displayed some enormous vegetables.

The removal of the county seat from Prescott and the gradual withdrawal of trade from there finally resulted in the discontinuance of county fairs and a long period during which there was no organized attempt to benefit agriculture in the county.

Among the early settlers were those who had raised fruit of various kinds in their former homes. Lands here were so productive that these people were hopeful of being able to grow fruit and berries as well as they did "back home."

Early Fruit Raising

Among those experimenting with apples was George W. Cairns, of Ellsworth. On his large home grounds in that village, next to the present fair grounds, he planted seed from some choice apples grown near Madison, Wis., and cared for the seedlings; from these

he obtained several very fine apples, some of which won prizes at various state fairs.

The winter of 1884-85 killed all but one of these trees; from that tree were raised a dozen that stood our winters and produced very good apples, varying somewhat in appearance.

Oliver Gibbs, Prescott editor, politician and philosopher, set out 200 apple trees in 1886-87 which did very well for him until the orchard was invaded by blight; writing in 1905 Mr. Gibbs said, "Were I young again and trying for an orchard in Pierce county I would try the good old New England way—grow seedlings and then top-graft to the favorite varieties, selecting seed from the hardiest varieties, like the Duchess."

Sowing, Harvesting and Threshing

Grain was sowed "broadcast" by the early settlers; there was no available machinery for sowing, and fields were not large enough to use machinery had it been available. The trick of broadcasting grain was to scatter it evenly over the land. This required experience and a special bucket held by straps over the shoulders and a belt around the waist, hanging in front, giving free use of both arms for scattering the seed.

The sower proceeded with a regular step, arms working in unison and covering a strip some 20 feet wide; to be sure of good coverage the ground was usually covered again at right angles. A good man could sow two or three farms in a day, more than two teams of oxen could cover in a day with the wooden drags used.

Grain was harvested by means of a "cradle", a large scythe having a number of wooden fingers of the size and shape of the scythe blade mounted above the blade to hold the grain as it was cut. The cradler made a wide swing through the standing grain, depositing all that was cut in a neat pile at the left of his swing, then advancing a short step for another swing. As soon as one cradler had advanced a few feet another might start another swath behind him, and a third behind the second, and so on for as many as were needed to cut the field. Sometimes there were contests. Then the best and strongest cradler started as number one and the others tried to keep step with him. But generally one man could easily cradle all the grain on a farm. For several years in succession all the grain grown in the town of Spring Lake was cradled by one man, Elias P. Weldon.

After the grain was cut it was raked together, bound and shocked. Binding consisted of tying it in bundles of even size by means of bands made by twisting a wythe of the grain itself; this also was a job for experts only. These bundles were then set up in shocks on the cut ends tightly together and crowned by another bundle laid over the heads to protect them from rain and birds.

Threshing was done by a flail—a stick some five or six feet long to which another stick about four feet long was fastened with a leather thong; when swung over the head the shorter piece hit full length on the evenly-spread grain and pounded most of the kernels out of the heads onto the threshing floor—which might be hard bare ground or the floor of a building.

After the grain was thoroughly threshed out the straw was raked up, leaving the grain mixed with chaff. This was separated by winnowing—throwing the mixture aloft out-of-doors so that the heavy grain would fall back while the chaff was blown away by the wind.

After the Civil War American inventors made machines to take over these ancient hand labors. The reaper displaced the cradle, except for smallest fields and among stumps, but still the grain must be bound by hand by men standing on the reaper floor. Then came the self-binder, using wire as a tie; then came the twine-binder. Crude threshing machines displaced flails. Later (for larger grain farms) the operations of cutting, binding and threshing were combined in one machine—the combine—but Pierce county farmers still prefer to cut and shock the grain to let it season (sweat) before it is threshed.

Making Maple Sugar

That thrifty growth of maple trees in central and eastern Pierce county produced the sweetest crop of the year; every settler devoted much time in the spring to making maple sugar, syrup being too hard to keep.

Troughs for catching the sweet sap were hewed out of butternut logs with an ax. Spiles were lengths of young elders from which the pith had been punched. Sap was boiled down in big iron kettles hung on a stick supported by two forked sticks standing in the ground.

This sugar was about all the sweetening that many pioneer families ever saw.

Pierce County Farms

Pierce county is one of the richest agricultural counties in the state, its prosperity built upon the solid foundation of diversified farming. Its location is almost ideal, being less than 50 miles from St. Paul and Minneapolis, the two largest cities in the Northwest.

The Burlington and Omaha railroads furnish the county with good shipping accommodations to the south and west and east. The Mississippi river and Lake St. Croix furnish excellent water transportation to the south and northwest. A concrete road to St. Paul, and all-weather roads leading to all parts of the county, make truck and car transportation available to all.

Pierce county has 3089 farms with an average size of 115.4 acres. Land area of the county is 360,320 acres; 98% of this is in farms, 197,881 acres being available for crops. Value of farm land and buildings is \$16,732,241.

Knox and Lindley silt loams make up the bulk of the soil; the underlying rock is a lower magnesium limestone. This soil is very fertile and will raise practically any crop without the use of commercial fertilizers, though we find that some of the soils, after a number of years of erosion, do respond to the use of phosphate and potash.

The following crops were raised in Pierce county in 1889: wheat 20,859 acres; corn 14,194 acres; oats 21,579 acres; barley 9,059 acres; rye 5,828 acres; potatoes 2,287 acres; cranberries 4 acres; flax 435 acres; cultivated grasses 29,046 acres; and 72,072 acres of timber. Fruit crops were small, as there were less than 50 acres of all bush fruits.

In 1936 Pierce county had in corn 34,108 acres; oats 45,000 acres; barley 37,074 acres; rye 3,318 acres; winter wheat 2,340 acres; spring wheat 13,111 acres; potatoes 1,229 acres; clover and timothy hay 22,424 acres; alfalfa hay 22,136 acres; sweet clover 1,776 acres, soybeans 100 acres; flax 134 acres; cabbage 220 acres, canning peas 251 acres.

Our alfalfa acreage has increased from 120 acres in 1921 to 22,136 acres in 1936, due to the fact that farmers have found it a very valuable feed for their livestock and easier to grow now than the clovers. Nearly 7,000 tons of limestone were crushed in the county in 1937 and spread on the land, which helps to account for the increase in the alfalfa acreage.

Dairying is the greatest industry in Pierce county. There are 42,807 dairy cattle of the Holstein, Guernsey, Jersey, Brown Swiss and Ayreshire breeds, valued at \$1,634,110. These cattle produce over 6,000,000 pounds of butter each year, valued at \$2,500,000. All our cream or milk is sold to five co-operative creameries, one co-operative cheese factory, three private creameries and two private cheese factories.

Average butterfat produced per cow for all herds in the county is over 200 pounds per year. There are two Dairy Herd Improvement associations operating now and two more will be started this fall and average yearly butterfat production per cow in the associations is over 300 pounds.

Besides the dairy cattle, there are over 5,000 beef cattle in the county; there are 13,583 sheep, 8,200 swine, 231,931 hens and pullets of laying age. There is a small flock on nearly every farm, ranging from 150 to 400 birds.

Young folks in the county are much interested in agriculture and home economics. More than 600 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 20 are 4-H club members, carrying some project in agriculture and/or home economics. Each year these club members make worthy exhibits at the annual Pierce county fair.

Work of county agricultural agent and home demonstration agent is outlined by the county agricultural committee, which is selected by the county board. Federal and state aid is given the county for part of the cost of these offices, in addition to the amount appropriated by the county board. County agricultural agent work was established in Pierce county in 1921.

Through the program set up by the agricultural committee, the livestock and farm crop programs have improved each year for those 15 years. The future holds many good things in store for the young people who adopt newer and more scientific methods, not blindly but as they are tried out and proved better than the old.

Soil erosion is a serious problem here, increasingly so since the timber has been cut off the hillsides. A CCC camp was established in the county in 1935 to set up demonstration methods in controlling erosion. The state and federal government have placed a man in the county agent's office to assist in this work and projects have been established with the young folks that will serve as demonstrations in their communities. Among these projects are building small dams, strip cropping planting headwaters.

Agriculture in Pierce county, as everywhere in the United States, was profoundly disturbed by the depression which affected this country in 1929; combined with the drouth which became acute in 1933 and following years, a very heavy burden fell upon the farmers of the county and only those in a strong financial position and practically free of debt came through the depression unharmed.

But the fact that Pierce county farmers in general have always followed sound principles and have diversified their production in the past, prevented this county from being as deeply injured by the crisis as were many other counties in this and adjoining states. Our soil, especially in the eastern part of the county, is not so quickly affected by drouth as are more sandy soils; our long water boundary brought us rather more moisture than came to more inland counties.

Although we must give credit to our soils and climate for our relative prosperity, the native character of the people must be given most of the credit. Coming from the best and most sturdy and intelligent agricultural districts of Europe and the United States, our early settlers brought with them the ability and willingness to work, to overcome difficulties, to depend on themselves and to keep up cheerful courage that are always found in successful, prosperous agricultural states. So long as those qualities rule in Pierce county our future is safe.

CHAPTER IX

Early Pierce County Schools

First school in Pierce county was held in 1850 in a room in the home of the teacher, a Mrs. Olive, living just north of the city of Prescott. Six children were taught there at first.

Earliest school report on record in Pierce county was by J. M. Whipple, school superintendent of the town of Prescott, for the school year 1853-54. The town of Prescott comprised the entire county at that time; hence this report would about cover all the school activities of the county for that year. The report gives the following items:

One public school, taught by A. H. Young; length of school term $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. Number of children between the ages of four and twenty was 129, boys 73, girls 56; only 46 of these children attended school. Three children under the age of four and eight past twenty also attended.

Amount of money received by this superintendent for the schools was \$273.12, of which \$33.75 was state and county money and \$239.37 was raised in local taxes. This money was expended as follows:

Teachers' wages, \$50.00; blackboard, \$2.50; building school house, \$290.00; fuel, \$1.00. Part of the money needed to build the school house was raised by subscription. The district had a debt of \$154.00 and \$70.00 was due from unpaid taxes.

This first public school house, though built in 1853, was, strangely enough, not a log building as would be surmised but a simple though imposing frame building. Text books used in this first public school were listed as follows: spelling books, Sanders', McGuffey's; reading books, Sanders', McGuffey's; geographies, Mitchell's; arithmetics, Adam's and Ray's; grammars, Smith's. The school owned a set of outline maps.

The report further mentions two private schools maintained in this town and attended by about 40 pupils.

In the late 50's the county settled rapidly. Towns were formed as a subdivision of government. Superintendents of schools were set-up over all schools in the county, one in each town; there was no person having general supervision over all schools in the county. These town superintendents were elected for one year and received a salary of one dollar a day for every day actually and necessarily devoted to the service of the town. This was the same salary as

that paid the "fence-viewers" of the town. No educational qualifications were required for this office, although each superintendent was invested with large powers of administration and supervision; he apportioned school moneys, took the school census, transmitted reports to the county clerk and to the state superintendent, examined and licensed teachers and could annul certificates; he supervised school instruction and advised teachers and school boards; he could divide the town into school districts and regulate their boundaries. Not all these powers and duties were exercised in full by any one superintendent, for it was usually difficult to get a person competent and willing to serve in such capacity; besides, there was not enough work connected with this office to keep a man busy. As a result, the man selected for this office usually considered the superintendency a side issue, devoting only such time to his office as he thought his neighbors would stand for; he rarely exercised discretionary powers for fear that he might antagonize his neighbors. Town superintendents could also give examinations to, and license one another to teach; thus superintendents (in a few cases) were enabled to add teaching to the business of farming and the town superintendency.

A complete file of the town superintendents and their reports for the year 1857-58 is on record. Following were those town superintendents:

Clifton, J. L. Copley; Pleasant Valley, S. A. Green; Oak Grove, Frank Bliss; Trimbelle, R. S. Anders; Perry, E. W. Bruce; Diamond Bluff, Ebenezer Hussey; Trenton, E. H. Boustead; Isabelle, Noble E. Martin; Martell, Joseph Prescott; Prescott, William Howes; River Falls, Lute A. Taylor.

We find from these reports that the following text books were in use: arithmetics, Greenleaf, Smith, Adam's and Ray's, Colburn's, McGuffey's; spellers, Webster's, Sanders, and McGuffey's; readers, Sanders, McGuffey's, Towers'; geographies, McNally's, Mitchell's, Monteith's, Cornell's, Parley's; grammars, Smith's, Welds and Cornell's.

In that school year there were 25 school districts in the county, with 13 frame school houses and four log school houses; in the other eight districts, school was held in a room of some settler's house. Martell and Diamond Bluff had no school houses; but in the fall of 1858 Diamond Bluff constructed a frame school house 28x36 and 12 feet high with a belfry, at a cost of \$600.00. In the

one school in Trenton, 14 children attended three months; \$60.00 was spent for teacher's wages and the school was equipped with one blackboard, 17 spelling books, 11 readers, two arithmetics, three geographies and two grammars. The Diamond Bluff superintendent reported "a number of scholars commenced attending the schools who came a few days and then found the distance so far that they quit. Both school districts have hired a room for the time being." Wages for female teachers in Diamond Bluff were \$11.00 a month and board. Evidently some of the teachers "boarded around", as was the custom of the earlier schools in this country. In the town of Pleasant Valley the two teachers were Miss Brewer, who received \$3.00 a week, and T. McCleary, who received \$25.00 a month but agreed to board himself; perhaps Miss Brewer lived with the various families in the district. Clifton reported \$16.50 a month as teachers' wages and that there were neither maps nor blackboards in their schools. Isabelle had 27 children attending school; \$78.68 was spent for teachers' wages, and \$10.00 for all other expenses. In Martell 43 attended school, \$23.00 per month was paid to male teachers and \$15.00 to female teachers. Trimbelle reported 109 children between the ages of 4 and 20, of whom 88 attended school; there were two log and two board school houses; \$18.00 a month was paid to male and \$16.00 to female teachers. River Falls had 132 children on the school census, 92 attending school; \$268.83 was spent in teachers' wages. In Perry (Ellsworth) there were 41 children of school age and two log school houses, and \$61.00 was spent for teachers' wages. Oak Grove had one frame school house and 60 children of school age, but only 11 attended school.

In the entire county there were 1,016 children between the ages of 4 and 20, with 563 attending school; 175 of these were in the city of Prescott. Seven children under the age of four and 16 over the age of 20 attended these schools. The city of Prescott maintained school for eight months; outside of that city average length of the year's term was about three months.

The report of three years later (1860-1861) portrays the rapid settlement of the county, for the school census then showed 1,415 children of school age, with 857 attending school. There were 41 school districts, with 10 log school houses and 25 board houses; 19 schools had blackboards and 10 were equipped with outline maps. School was maintained for an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. Aver-

age wages of men teachers was \$22.00 and of women teachers \$16.00 per month.

Oldest Teacher's Certificate

Following is a copy of the oldest teacher's certificate on record in Pierce county:

I do hereby certify that I have thoroughly examined Miss Abbie Leavitt and do believe that she is qualified in regard to moral character, learning and ability to teach a common school. This certificate is to remain in force unless sooner annulled for one year from date, and is to be of effect in this town only.

Given under my hand this 19 day of April, A. D., 1861.

Wm. M. Newcomb.

Town Superintendent of Schools for the town of Clifton, Pierce County.

Miss Abbie Leavitt married Geo. W. Cairns, of Ellsworth, and lived to be well along in the 90's at her home in that village. For many years she met annually with a number of "girls" who had attended her school. She was the mother of three children, the oldest of whom, William, became a noted professor at the University of Wisconsin, recognised even in England as a Shakespearean scholar and author of widely used professional books on early American literature.

After the first few years, it became customary to have two terms of school—winter and summer. The younger boys and girls attended both terms, but usually the older students attended the winter term only. Very often men were hired as teachers for the winter term and women for the summer term. In some cases it required a strong man to control the pupils, who were often as old as the teacher himself. Later a full term of school was added, with schools generally opening in September. Length of the school year gradually increased from three months to six months, to seven and one-half months, to the required eight months in 1907; at present nine months of school must be maintained in every district.

Surprising as it may seem, not many of the first school buildings of the county were of logs. The common box-type frame building with three windows on each of its long sides came first, especially in the western part of the county. Many of these are still in existence. As early as 1903, furnaces were installed in new one-room

buildings. Schoolhouses constructed between 1908 and 1915 were lighted from the north or north and west only; this was quite an improvement, but it was found that windows on those particular sides interfered with proper heating of the room. Lighting on new buildings now is in all possible cases placed on the east, or east and south, and seats are arranged so that the light will fall over the left shoulder.

Equipment of Early Schools

Much emphasis was placed on "the three R's, reading, riting and rithmetic", but in spite of all difficulties and handicaps, pupil of the earlier schools mastered the fundamentals of the elementary subjects in a scholarly manner because most of the teachers were trained in eastern colleges of good rank.

A report of 1887 reveals that only one-fourth of the schools had dictionaries; one-half had neither maps nor globes, and one-fourth were without blackboards. The blackboards at first were ordinary boards painted black. Pupils of our modern schools should feel very grateful to school officers, parents and patrons who so generously supply our schools with maps, globes, up-to-date reference books, supplementary textbooks, etc. In practically all of our schools textbooks are furnished free to pupils, the well-to-do of the district shouldering the extra tax in order that all pupils may have equal advantages.

Eighth Grade Graduates

Although there were more young people of school age 50 years ago than there are now in proportion to population, very few completed the elementary grades by taking and passing the county eighth grade "diploma examinations". Only 12 eighth-grade pupils in the county graduated in 1887; in 1904, 131 eighth graders wrote the county examinations and only 44 passed; in 1907, of the 122 who wrote only 59 passed. Thus thirty years ago less than half of those of eighth grade age would write for diplomas and only about one-fifth would pass. Since that time progress has been made in grading and checking; more supervision has been provided; standard examinations are more frequent; attendance has improved. All this has resulted in a larger percentage of pupils completing the elementary schools, only about 7% failing in the eighth grade. In 1936 Pierce county had 220 graduates from the rural schools out of about 240 who wrote the examinations. Twenty boys and

girls in the graded schools and 145 in the grades below high school also completed the eighth, making a total of 385 graduating from the elementary schools of the county.

For the past 50 years, central graduation exercises for rural graduates have been held at the county seat shortly after the close of each school year. On such occasions an eloquent speaker was secured to give the commencement address; pupils contributed to the program with songs, plays, etc., and diplomas were presented to the graduates by the county superintendent. Nearly a thousand parents and young people today attend these graduation exercises, which have not changed in type or character during these years, thus indicating that such an event must possess a great deal of merit to maintain its significance.

First record of graduates from the elementary schools of the county is included in a report made in 1883 by County Superintendent Amos Rosenberger, as follows:

Hartland, John Murphy teacher—Abram Crownhart, Andrew S. Thompson; *Trenton*, Chas. Crownhart teacher—Gertie Shaves, Edna Clements, Carrie Parker; *Diamond Bluff*, Nantie Cornelison teacher—Nettie Granbois; W. A. Cadwell teacher—Lucy Ferguson; *Trimbelle*, Maddie Everett teacher—Hattie Bailey, Ida Moore; *Maiden Rock*, O. E. Rice teacher—Taylor Trye, Belle Frye, Chas. J. Brewer, Lizzie A. Kaye, Minnie Poole, Lulu Sands; *Salem*, Taylor Frye teacher—John E. Foley.

There are many well-known names in the above list.

School Attendance

First compulsory attendance law was passed in 1880, when children between the ages of 7 and 15 were required to attend school at least 12 weeks, or 60 days, during the year; later this requirement was doubled to 120 days. Now "constant and regular" attendance is required, and only justifiable excuses are accepted for non-attendance. Thirty and forty years ago there was much irregular attendance. Obviously children were required to remain to help with various duties about the farm, and the boys and girls can be thankful now for the labor-saving machinery which has reduced much of the labor and drudgery of the farm and home which formerly fell on them.

County Superintendent John F. Shaw stated in the fall of 1895 that the average school attendance then was only 50% of the

enrollment. Reason: "the little Badgers are needed on the farm to help garner the bountiful harvest." School children now average better than 90 % of perfect attendance.

It is rather interesting to note that from 1875 to 1886 women were allowed to hold school offices, but were not allowed to vote for school officers. Since 1886 they have been allowed to vote in any election pertaining to school matters, and now they have full equality with men in voting and holding office.

Subjects Taught

Subjects taught in the first schools were reading, permanship, arithmetic, spelling, geography and grammar. After the Civil War, there was a demand for the teaching of history and civil government. In 1871 the legislature provided for teaching of U. S. and state civil government; state history was added in 1873. In 1886 physiology and hygiene were introduced and in 1875 orthoepy was added. Agriculture was studied for the first time in 1905. The early schools had no uniformity in textbooks, but such books as children brought to school were placed in use; it wasn't uncommon for each pupil in a class to have a different textbook.

School Libraries

School libraries were started in 1890, when 10c per child for all children between the ages of 4 and 20 was reserved from school money to purchase library books; now this amount is 20 cents per child. Since 1895 flags have been required in all schools; they were formerly displayed only on legal holidays but now are raised daily.

School Ventilation

At first not much attention was paid to ventilation in the schoolroom. A school report in 1886 reads, in part: "Windows in nine-tenths of the school houses in Pierce county are stuck fast, or, as General Grant would have it, 'hermetically sealed'. No child can study and improve and be obliged to breathe the reeking pestiferous air of an illy-ventilated school room". Since the early 1900's, a ventilating system has been required in every school room; stoves must be jacketed and provided with a fresh-air intake to the stove, and a foul-air outlet through the chimney. Many of our buildings at the present time have such a ventilation system working efficiently.

Supervising Teachers

The first supervising teacher in Pierce county was Rilla H Martin, of Grange Hall, who was elected by the Board of Education in 1915. Supervising teachers since then have been Grayce Kemp Bittner, Catherine Z. Steiner and Ida M. Qualle. The supervising teacher, under the direction of the county superintendent of schools, supervises and assists the school teachers in the county, devoting special attention to the less experienced. Pierce county's supervising teachers have done much to improve the status of the school and the elementary teachers. Most of their time is spent in visiting country schools. The supervising teacher is, in reality, a state-employed person, for her entire salary and her expenses in performing her duties are paid by the state. She is the only employee in the county whose salary is not paid in part or in full by the county. By a state law passed in 1937, Pierce county became entitled to a second supervising teacher, and one was appointed to help teach music in the country schools.

Supervision and Administration

Office of County Superintendent of Schools in Wisconsin was created in 1861. W. T. Hatch, first county superintendent of Pierce county, was elected November of that year, his term beginning Jan. 1, 1862, and lasting two years. Since then 20 men have held this office in Pierce county. In 1903 time of electing superintendent was changed to the spring election; in 1929 length of term was changed from two to four years.

The County Superintendent has jurisdiction over all the schools of the county except in the cities of River Falls and Prescott, where there are city superintendents. Some of his duties are: to examine and license teachers; visit and inspect schools; to advise on questions under the school law; to report on conditions of county schools; to report to the state superintendent; to hold teachers' meetings and school board conventions; to conduct eighth grade examinations.

A school board convention has been held annually in Pierce county since 1905, when Superintendent George W. Weldon called the school board members of the county for a one-day session. A state conductor always appeared at these meetings and spoke on school law and school management. A question box has been maintained for questions pertaining to school affairs, and these

are answered by school officials. These school board conventions have always been a source of inspiration and education to school board members; they are well attended.

Before the days of the automobile, travel was slow and it was quite impossible for the superintendent to visit all of the schools during the school term. He often would leave the county seat with his team and spend the entire week in some part of the county visiting schools.

Superintendents have constantly used circular letters and bulletins as a means for supervision and administration. A printed circular of information on "Theory and Practice applied to the common schools of Pierce County", by Supt. Henry S. Baker in 1876, shows some nature of the type of supervision at that time. It contains in part: "*System*—Call classes in an orderly way by the tap of a pencil; do not let them come in from recess like a flock of sheep, but keep them in order from the door. Do not walk around the room to look up disorders; keep your place at the desk and you can command the room. Make the pupils clean their boots out of doors. Never argue with them when you tell them what to do. Have few rules and enforce these at all hazards. Try to be master of the situation and have all things move like clock-work. Never play with the pupils during intermission. Allow no disorder in the school room at any recess, save ordinary talking. Compel all to march out orderly and then to return if they wish. Allow none to keep on shawls or overcoats in school; it is injurious. Boys should not wear belts nor straps to confine the coat during school hours. Speaking and leaving seats are obsolete relics of the past, allow none. *Grammar*—If you use a large work, begin to correct sentences as soon as possible. Tell the why in parsing, until the class is well advanced; parse by turns, and let each one tell one property of the word and make them work lively—slowness is the bane of grammar classes. Do not argue and ask opinions of the class, until they have parsed decently. Keep awake yourself. There is a sad lack of grammatical knowledge in the county, while arithmetic is studied too much. *Reading*—Cause the pupil to stand erect, hold up his head, and hold the book with one hand. Never let two stand up to read from one book. Allow no leaning on desks or crossing of feet. Above all, allow no unnatural or school tone in reading, but instruct them to speak in an ordinary voice. Make the pupils of the lower class read each

lesson until they can do so with considerable readiness. Give them but one sentence at a time, at first; never leave it until it can be read by each one without stumbling. Nearly every school has classes in books two grades too high; no matter what other teachers have done, put them where they belong. It is a positive injury to a pupil to read in a fifth reader when he should use a third, and yet some parents insist upon such folly."

In 1913 there was created a county board of education in Pierce county, consisting of five members elected by the voters of the county, with power to appoint a supervising teacher, a clerk for the superintendent's office, a board of examiners for the county school diplomas and to alter and form new school districts. Only the one board of education was ever elected in this county; it consisted of W. L. Yates of Elmwood, president; Alvin D. Hurtgen of Olivet, secretary; and G. K. Moore of Ellsworth, F. A. Way of Hager City and T. M. Manion of River Falls. This board created the Fischer school district, Jt. 4 of El Paso, and selected the first supervising teacher, but it ceased functioning in 1918.

High Schools

First high school established in Pierce county was located at Prescott in 1881. River Falls organized a high school in 1884. Ellsworth erected a high school building in 1897 and offered a four-year high school course, although two and three years of high school work had been given since 1888. High school at Spring Valley was established in 1904, at Elmwood in 1920, at Maiden Rock in 1921. Plum City offered a four-year high school course for 1910-1912 and then discontinued such until 1935, now operating a full four-year course.

At first very few young people from the country attended high school, nor were there very many from the villages and cities; however, enrollment has shown a continuous increase, necessitating constant new additions and new buildings. Ellsworth doubled the size of its building in 1907 and constructed a new modern high school building in 1931. Elmwood has built two additions. Spring Valley built several buildings, had a fire loss, and erected a modern school building in 1930. River Falls built a new school to replace the one destroyed by fire in 1929.

Prescott built an addition in 1920 and another unit to replace the original school house destroyed by fire in 1935. The old Pres-

cott building was equipped with a clock tower and a clock that struck hourly and could be seen and heard for a considerable distance. The people in this community were so accustomed to this large clock, and its loss was so felt that they contributed several thousand dollars to build a tower and clock on the new building.

Advent of good roads and high-school transportation have encouraged attendance from rural areas; to these inducements are attributable the phenomenal growth of high school enrollment and attendance during the past ten years. Note the number of high school graduates in Pierce county for these years: 20 in 1900; 68 in 1922; 237 in 1937.

Until recent years, subjects offered in high schools were those necessary to prepare a student for college; for several subjects, at least, this was the only reason for their presence in high school. But gradually high schools adopted courses and revised curricula to meet more practical needs of young people. Manual training courses were offered in a few schools, also courses in domestic science. Now we find all our high schools offering many practical courses.

A four-year course in vocational agriculture consists of plant husbandry, animal husbandry, farm shop work and agricultural economics. Home economics classes for girls give training in sewing, cooking, canning, home art decoration, care of homes and home hygiene. Commercial courses offer training in business science, shorthand and commercial practice.

The County's High Schools

Ellsworth high school offers the home economics course, the four-year commercial course, a four-year latin course and a course in higher mathematics. Extra curriculum activities consist of band, orchestra, mixed chorus, boys' glee club, girls' glee club, football, basketball and baseball. A full-time band instructor and a special instructor in vocal music are employed.

Spring Valley high school, besides the regular academic courses, offers a four-year course in vocational agriculture, full home economics course, a four-year commercial course, a two-year latin course. A full-time band instructor and full-time music teacher offer band, mixed chorus, boys' glee club, girls' glee club and individual teaching; an athletic coach teaches basket ball, foot ball and base ball.

The River Falls high school offers a four-year vocational agricultural course, home economics, commercial training, manual training, organized classes in speech and dramatics, intramural athletics, instruction in band, orchestra and glee club. The River Falls high school has held a membership in the North Central Association since 1905; their graduates are admitted to all North Central colleges without examination.

Elmwood high school offers a four-year vocational agricultural course, a commercial course, a home economics course and music and athletics.

Plum City high school, besides the regular academic courses, offers a four-year agricultural course and regular instruction in band.

The Prescott high school offers a two-year course in German and an accredited course in band, besides the regular academic subjects. Glee clubs, dramatics, baseball and basketball are sponsored.

Maiden Rock high school, besides instruction in the academic subjects, offers music training and typing.

School House Sites

It is to be regretted that often too small a piece of ground was selected for a school house site in early days when larger areas were more easily obtainable than they are now. Yards in rural schools average about half an acre. The many trees on the school grounds of the county were mostly planted by the pupils and teachers of past generations. Although the most important use of a school ground is for play, much improvement can be made in beautification by careful planning and planting of trees, flowers and shrubs along borders, in corners and in other places that will not break up the open areas needed for play. Many districts have increased the size of their school yards, providing playground equipment of swings, teeter-totters and merry-whirls. Every school yard should have space large enough for a soft-ball diamond.

River Falls Academy

The River Falls Academy Association was organized in 1857. This organization built a two-story building 66 feet long and 36 feet wide at a cost of \$5,000.00. Professor Wilcox was the first principal, Professor Allen H. Weld the second. Tuition charges were as follows:

Common English branches, 45 cents per week; Higher English

branches, 55 cents per week; Language, 65 cents per week. Also a small charge for incidentals, wood, etc.

The following notice concerning the spring academy term, published in the *River Falls Journal* in March, 1858, indicates the serious-mindedness of those in charge of the institution:

"We wish it definitely understood that we want the patronage of no student of either sex who may desire to attend just to pass away the time. Unless they propose to engage in study earnestly they would do better to stay away. We intend to make it an uncomfortable place for idlers."

The notice further stated that they had just received their new chemical and philosophical equipment. In 1884 this academy became a high school with Mr. Keyes as principal.

Further evidence of this desire for self-improvement and culture is witnessed in these announcements in the *River Falls Journal* in 1857:

"Writing School commences Thursday evening, next. Terms—\$1.50 for 12 lessons, books included. Young ladies will meet at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and the gentlemen at 7 o'clock in the evening. Singing School.—Dr. J. C. Pride of Prescott will meet the singers of River Falls at the school house Wednesday evening. It is the doctor's intention to form a singing class, if practicable, and this evening he will explain his method of teaching, terms, etc."

River Falls State Normal School

Many of the early settlers of Pierce county were people of considerable education. A group of such were among the pioneers of the River Falls community. These people insisted on a chance to give their children fair educational advantages.

Soon after the Civil War ended and the era of prosperity began, Allen H. Weld, a farmer near the village of River Falls, was appointed on the state board of Normal School regents; his reputation as a prominent teacher in the East caused his selection for the honor. He soon enlisted the help of other men of the community in securing the location of a state normal school at River Falls. By the aid of friendly members of the legislature, the session of 1872 passed an act providing for the location of such a school at River Falls if the sum of \$20,000 was raised by River Falls. In the spring of 1872 the money was voted by the neighboring towns, River Falls pledging half of it. But LaCrosse Eau Claire, Stevens

Point and other larger towns wanted that school and raised the bid to much more than \$20 000.

A special session of the county board was called June 17, 1872, which voted to give \$5,000 toward securing the school for River Falls; the people of River Falls also voted to donate a 10-acre site. And shortly afterward the board of Normal School regents voted to give River Falls the school.

The foundation was laid in 1874 and the building completed in 1875. W. D. Parker was chosen as its first principal. This first building burned to the ground in 1897, the present South Hall being constructed in its place; in 1898 the new South Hall was built. North Hall was built in 1914 and the Training School addition in 1927.

This school has flourished beyond the hopes of its projectors and has been a large factor in promoting better schools in Pierce and adjoining counties.

Cost of School Maintenance

In 1875, \$38,888.56 was expended for school purposes in Pierce county; in 1937 about \$250,000.00 was expended for the same purpose. Schools were principally supported by local district taxation. State and county aids to elementary and high schools were very meager for many years; they gradually increased as the state and school fund increased, but the inequitable feature of the distribution of school money was that it was allotted on the per capita basis of all children between the ages of 4 and 20. Thus families who located in the rougher sections of the county found that their districts had fewer children to draw state and county aid and consequently would be unable to support as good a school and as well trained a teacher for their children as other and more developed sections.

School Equalization Law

The most important piece of school legislation to affect the elementary schools of Pierce county was the Callahan Equalization law, which began functioning in 1929. Since then state school money has been apportioned according to district valuation, those with lower valuations receiving additional money, thus tending to maintain a uniform school tax rate in all districts regardless of high or low valuations. Under this plan and this law, Pierce county has received considerable more money than under the old system.

The average yearly state school money for the elementary schools of Pierce county for seven years preceding 1929 was \$16,000; average for the seven years since has been \$38,000, or more than double. Thus our elementary schools are now well financed.

Pierce County Educators

It is interesting to note that a goodly number of young people who received their training in the elementary schools of the county in the early days chose the teaching profession for their life work.

Among these we find John Callahan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Wisconsin, who spent his boyhood years in Prescott, earned a teacher's certificate and taught several of the elementary schools of the county in Martell township and at South Hill, Gilman. John F. Shaw was one of the early teachers; he served as county superintendent from 1892 to 1899 and is now state supervisor of rural schools, a position he has held for many years. Chas. J. Brewer, director of the training school of the Eau Claire State Teachers' College, attended school at Maiden Rock, receiving a common school diploma in 1883, and from that date has devoted his life to the service of the schools of Wisconsin; he taught rural schools in Pierce county, was county superintendent from 1888 to 1890 and was the first principal of the Ellsworth high school. Oscar F. Mattson, now head of the mathematics department of Marquette (Michigan) State Normal School, served as a teacher, principal of schools, and County Superintendent in Pierce county. Paul Nystrom, now Professor of Economics in Columbia College, grew to boyhood and received his elementary schooling in Pierce county; he also earned his first teaching certificate here. Robert Lohrie, City Superintendent of Chippewa Falls, is another who attended the early Pierce county schools, earned a teacher's certificate and taught in the rural schools of the county.

Teachers' Wages

It is revealed in this history of the schools of the county that there have been periods of an over-supply of teachers and other periods of scarcity. In 1886 there were 30 teachers in the county without positions; other years indicating a surplus were 1875, 1892, 1910, and (naturally) during the recent depression years.

It appears that teacher's wages have always been very low. \$20 a month was the common compensation for the elementary teacher during the 1860's; in 1878 average wages were \$36 a month

for male teachers and \$27 for female teachers. The first minimum salary law was passed in 1913, requiring all districts to pay at least \$40 a month; the minimum salary was raised to \$55, thence to \$65, is now \$75 a month and will be \$80 per month in 1939 and \$85 thereafter. Average annual salaries in 1936 in Pierce county were \$665 for rural teachers, \$815 for graded teachers and \$1,192 for high school teachers.

From a school report in 1878 we read: "a single exception to the outlook for educational progress in Pierce county is the very low wages which teachers at the present time receive. The result is injurious, as many of the very best young men and women are driven into other fields of labor. Several young men who could shine in the ranks of teaching will now prepare for other professions. It appears that those who give up teaching are the best qualified rather than those whose loss would not be felt."

Teachers as Social Leaders

The rural teacher, since the earliest days, has been expected to be a social leader in the community, as well as to be the district teacher. School programs open to the public have always afforded delightful entertainment. In earlier years, spelling bees were frequent; there were also singing schools. Basket or box socials still prevail as entertainment and for raising funds for some school purpose, such as buying extra school equipment or decorations for the schoolroom, or for some school activity. Thanksgiving and Christmas programs have always been community affairs. Schools have arranged a Christmas program, a Christmas tree (usually a Santa Claus) and provided presents for all who came. Washington and Lincoln days were (and still are) observed by appropriate exercises. Schools used to participate more extensively in Memorial Day programs than they do now, for the reason that in later years school terms usually terminate before the last of May. The picnic on the last day of school is usually a distinctly social affair of the district.

Suggestions to Teacher

Have pupils consult records in the School Clerk's office, and inquire of older residents, then write a short history of their own School District. Are any photographs of former school houses or teachers to be procured? Would a cabinet containing such be of value if hung in the school room?

*History of a School District**by Edward Klecker*

The first school meeting in District No. 5, town of El Paso, was called to order by A. M. Hicks Oct. 14, 1871. He had been appointed by the board of supervisors. School board appointed for the ensuing year was Milton Green director, Robert Richardson treasurer, James W. Noble clerk. Selection of a site was left for the next school meeting.

Nov. 2, 1871, a special meeting was called to locate that site, which was finally decided for the north-east quarter of the north-west quarter of section 33, township 26 north, range 16 west, this being near the junction of Lost Creek and Rush River. The plot of nine rods square was leased from A. R. Hill for \$25.00. The building was to be 20x30 feet, lower part logs and gable frame; \$185.00 was raised for the new school house, but from this amount \$75.00 was deducted for teacher's wages.

Second annual meeting was held Sept. 30, 1872. It was voted that \$450.00 (actual cost of the school building) be paid. The district decided to have two terms of school, three months beginning in November and three months beginning in April, and \$160.00 was raised for general expenses. Annual school meeting date was changed to the last Monday in August. Clerk's salary was \$5.00 per year; director and treasurer received no pay.

It is thought that James Walsingham built the school house during the early fall of 1872. Viola Brasington was the first teacher, conducting the winter term of three months for \$66.00; Mary Zwicky taught the summer term for \$72.00.

Ten cords of maple wood were delivered on the school ground for 70 cents a cord. A "cannon" stove, costing \$20.00, was bought to heat the building.

During the next few years some improvements were made. In 1876 a blackboard was bought for \$8.00. In 1880 twelve seats were bought, benches being used before that time.

In 1880 the district received its first state aid money, \$12.09, and county aid of \$12.66. Total school expenses in 1880 were \$237.30.

In most cases a male teacher was hired for the winter term and a female teacher for the summer term.

In 1881 the district decided to buy the text books needed, selling

them to the pupils as they were called for. This method did not work very successfully, as the clerk was left with a surplus of books.

In 1888 a dispute arose over salary for school officers, so it was decided that the clerk should receive \$10.00 and the director and treasurer each \$5.00 annually.

In 1890 the school received its first aid from the town, \$138.26, from the state \$24.44, and from the county \$36.82.

In 1889 a special meeting was called to re-let the wood contract and to decide on whether to allow religious services in the school house. Result was that the person getting the wood contract had to give bonds of \$15.00 for delivery of the wood to the school grounds not later than Dec. 15, and it was voted to allow religious services of all denominations in the school house.

In 1893 the district had its first 8-months of school, divided into three terms—three months in fall, two months in winter and three months in spring.

In 1898 a special meeting was called to select a new site for the school house, reason being that the children who lived on the east side of the river had difficulty in crossing the river during the spring term. This meeting was called to order by Henry Powers. N. N. Kerby was appointed clerk in the absence of C. Livingston. Vote was 12 to 7 in favor of moving the school house to a new site 30 rods east of the north-west corner of section 35. The plot, 12 rods square, was leased from Thomas J. Morrow for \$1.00, providing it was used only for school purposes. The district raised \$25.00 for roofing on the new building, tearing the old building down and using all suitable material in the new.

So after standing nearly 27 years beside Rush River, the old building was torn down and rebuilt during the summer of 1898, being known thereafter as the Kerby school.

The new building was heated by a common stove. There were two rows of seats, 12 double seats. Walls and ceiling were white-washed. A few years later the school plat was fenced with three barbed wires and a 3-inch board along the top of the posts; cost of this fencing was \$16.00.

First teacher at the new location was Dollie Thorn, with an enrollment of 36 pupils; last teacher who taught in the old building was Helen Wagner.

This new log building was used ten years, until the spring of 1908, when the present frame building was built on the same site,

north-west of the log building, which was torn down that following summer.

It is interesting to note that in Maple Grove school can yet be seen a dish and a geometrical design cabinet that were actually used in Pierce county's last log schoolhouse.

The Purpose of Our Schools

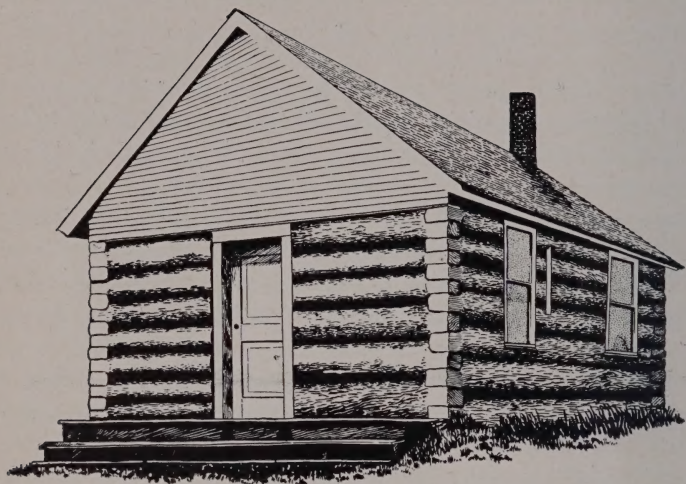
What is the great purpose of our schools? Why do the people of this and other communities tax themselves to erect costly building, to equip them with costly furniture, books, maps and all the varied requirements of a modern school and to hire specially-trained teachers for those schools? Why do your parents, and other parents everywhere, deprive themselves of your company for so much of the time, and also deprive themselves of the valuable help you could give them at home and on the farm, and send you to school all these years?

All this is done that the pupils of our schools shall be wiser, happier and better fitted to meet the problems of life than are their parents and grandparents.

It is the constant aim of all teachers and of all other school officials and educators to direct the work in school to further the above aims. Young people should try to profit by the helps given them in school, even if they cannot now see the immediate benefits of what they are learning.

We study History so that, by learning what people have done in the past and what the results of their actions have been, we may be able to follow what has been proved good and to avoid what has been proved not good. By pointing out the reasons for successes and failures of former times, the writer of history greatly helps all who study his narratives.

The brief history and account of our Pierce county schools presented on the preceeding pages should give us a better idea of what has been done for education in our own schools.



School House in District No. 5, Town of El Paso.

Last Log School House in Pierce County.

CHAPTER X

Pierce County Highways

Nature provided the first highway used by Pierce county settlers—the rivers and lakes which form its extensive coast line on south and west borders. The first settlers needed no other means of travel. First inland settlement, at Greenwood, now River Falls, was almost as easy to reach over the prairies from Stillwater, Catfish Bar and Prescott. But those settlers who went farther into the interior needed roads. The numerous Indian trails did not suffice for the needs of permanent settlers.

This matter of roads had been left to the settlers themselves until the era of expansion after the Civil War made it possible for the county to help with money and planned direction. At that time the county was criss-crossed with rude trails, passable in good weather for oxen and heavy wagons, better than that on the western prairies, not so good in the Big Woods of the eastern townships.

First serious attempt to form a county highway policy was made at the meeting of the county board in 1869. The Wisconsin legislature had recently passed laws giving county boards the power to lay out and improve roads and to appropriate money for their construction and repair.

Something of this kind was urgently needed in Pierce county, especially in the Big Woods, where the best highways were only winding trails among the trees and mud-holes.

Leading into Prescott were some fair prairie roads; that city had become an important shipping point of grain and lumber. River Falls, too, had fair roads to the west to take out the flour produced at its three good-sized mills, but it needed better roads to the east.

The board of 1869 appropriated \$3,700 for the improvement (really for the construction) of the state road which followed an old Indian trail from Maiden Rock Point on Lake Pepin, up Pine Creek, across to Rush River, up that valley to Davis Coulee, then north-west to Forestville, River Falls and Hudson. Locating the new county seat at Ellsworth made the opening of this road an absolute necessity.

A branch of this road was laid out from one mile north of Forestville eastward to the village of El Paso, where much lumber was being sawed.

Contract for the whole job was let to Manley Healy, of River Falls and he and his sons Manley, Ezra and Lyman cut it out of the timber the full four rods wide during the following winter. That these four men, splendid workers as they were, could complete such a work of such length in one winter indicates something of the difference between road-building then and now.

First State Highway

First state highway in Pierce county was laid out in 1857 from Carson's Mills at Eau Galle to Prescott, passing on the town lines between what are now Spring Lake and Rock Elm, Gilman and El Paso, Martell and Ellsworth, River Falls and Trimbelle, and Clifton and Oak Grove, as nearly as possible.

That highway exists today, almost complete, being a half mile or so south of the line from Prescott to Beldenville and almost exactly on the line from there through the village of El Paso to the village of Elmwood. As laid out it took a diagonal course through the town of Rock Elm from section 3 to the Farmhill corner, then down the coulee to Maple Springs, where a family named Bailey lived. A mail route was established, served by a man on horseback who made weekly trips back and forth.

The Old Ox Team

First motive power in the woods was a team of oxen; it was thought that horses were too nervous and too quick for work in the timber. A good ox team weighed from 3,000 to 4,000 pounds and could haul a big load; their speed was around two miles an hour, except when they ran away, and then it took a fleet man to catch them. They were gentle but stupid, as a rule. They were "hitched up" by means of a double bow of wood which rested across the necks of both oxen of the team, a strong bent piece going around each neck, the wagon or other load being fastened to the center of the bow between the oxen. Almost always they were driven entirely by means of the voice—and a long whip; "whoa", "haw" and "gee" were words they knew well, and no silent man could be a good ox driver.

On the prairies of the county, oxen were not used so exclusively, horses taking their place at an early day. Nice buggies and carriages were used there years before the condition of roads and purses permitted their use in the woods.

CHAPTER XI

Modes of Travel

The Steamboat

At no time has this country ever seen a more pleasant and at the same time relatively inexpensive method of travel than was enjoyed by the pioneers who came to Pierce county in the boom days of 1855 and 1856, by steamboat on the Mississippi River. At that time travelers from the eastern states came by rail on the Illinois Central to Galena, Ill., where they took passage on the palatial boats for St. Paul and Stillwater and all intermediate points.

Those boats—"War Eagle", "Northern Belle", "Northern Lights", "Gray Eagle" and "Galena" and others later, were "side-wheelers"—propelled by two great paddle-wheels, one on either side of the boat. They provided good, clean cabins and served meals that are only duplicated today on the best ocean passenger ships. Later the motive power was transferred to the stern, one big wheel extending clear across the boat; these were called "stern-wheelers".

A little later the river trip necessary to reach Pierce county was shortened when the Burlington road was extended to LaCrosse, Wis., from Chicago.

The Indians had what was for them a better method of water travel, using light birch-bark canoes—but these had the disadvantage that the passengers must also wield the paddles; however, they could go over the widest lakes and up the smallest streams, and when a land portage intervened between streams they were not too heavy for a man to carry on his head.

The batteaux used by the French *coureurs de bois* were much larger than canoes, made to carry up to 20 men and their equipment; they were flat and of shallow draft but could not be used on small streams nor could they be portaged for any considerable distance.

Nearly all travel for any distance in early days was by water; but the Indians could walk, if need be; and one of the first lessons learned by the pioneers was how to walk long distances carrying what we would think very heavy burdens.

It was nothing uncommon for a man to walk 10 or 15 miles to town, carrying a sack of wheat, and then carry back the flour, with perhaps a few other groceries; and longer trips were made

Without the steamboats of early days, settlement of Pierce county would have been impossible at the time. These boats not only carried passengers, but all freight and express, as well as mail, depended on them.

Prescott was a transfer station. Boats routed up the St. Croix would leave all freight for the upper Mississippi at Prescott, and boats going up to St. Paul would likewise leave freight for St. Croix ports. To handle this freight, huge warehouses were built on the Prescott levee.

Each steamboat carried its own crew of stevedores, nearly all of them being Negroes. At every stop, these Negroes would form a line and carry the merchandise off the boat, then bring the waiting freight on board, keeping up a steady dog-trot under their burdens until the work was finished, no matter how long it took. Ships mates, loud of tongue, urged their motions. Sometimes the Negroes would sing as they worked, lending melody to the spectacular scenes.

Because this freight was generally shipped on the first boat tying up at the levee, there was great rivalry on the river to be first to reach the larger landings. The wood-fed furnaces were forced by burning oil to the limit—sometimes beyond the limit, when the boilers would burst under the strain, adding the danger of sudden death by explosion, fire or drowning to the thrills of the traveller.

On the topmost deck of every steamboat was the pilot house. Here was the wheel by which the boat was steered, the whistle cord for signalling other boats and the landings, and communication with the engine room. On the pilot was all responsibility for navigation of the boat. He must know the river as a man knows his own home—every turn in the river, just where the deepest channel was located, every sandbar, every sunken log, every landing, every mark on the banks, for six or seven hundred miles, and know it not only in fair sailing, but at night, in flood and in storm. The river changed constantly, but the pilot must know of every change, and know it before he drove his boat over the spot, not afterward.

The boats were of very light draft so that they could navigate the shallows; it was said they could sail any meadow in a heavy dew—but really some of them, loaded, drew only 26 inches of water, and the heaviest could navigate in five feet of water. Because of this, they were rather top-heavy.

As suddenly as it developed, so faded the era of steamboating on

the rivers; 70 years, the common life of man, covers the important years of the steamboat here. There are still steamboats (mostly propelled by gasolene or oil engines) but since the coming of the railroads the steamboat has been out of the picture. It is not probable that any amount of dredging channels, building dams and other aid can ever make the steamboat commercially practical again.

Prescott Men Donate Libraries

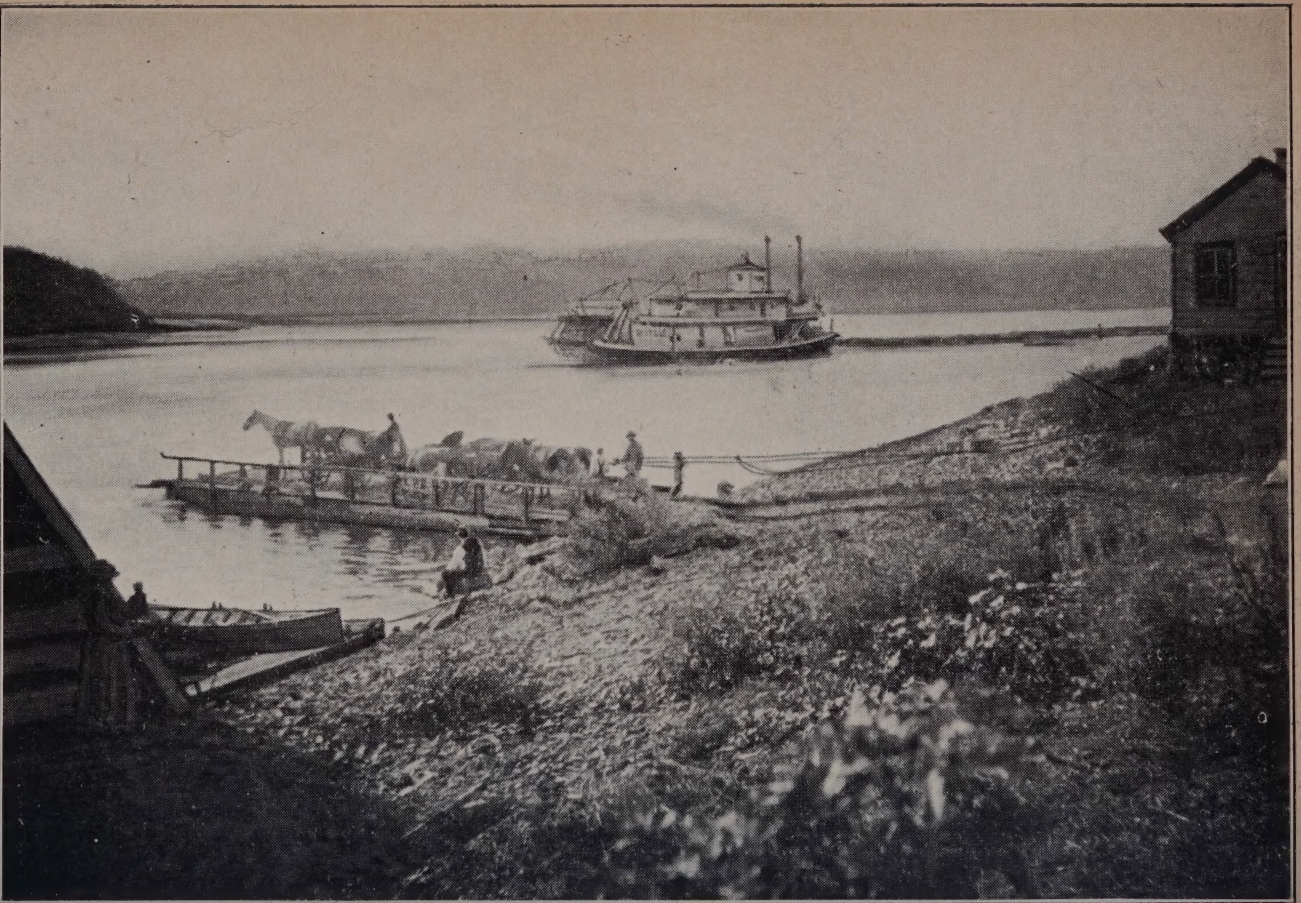
George B. Merrick, former newspaper publisher at both Prescott and River Falls, died in 1937 at Madison, leaving his large library to the city of Prescott. Mr. Merrick's library has an especially large collection of books and pictures about early life on the river, one of the books being written by himself.

Col. J. M. Dill, formerly of Prescott, made a large collection of books and manuscripts about the Civil War. At his death his daughter gave the collection to George Cook, of Prescott, who in turn donated it to Pierce county, providing that it shall be kept at the court house for reference.

Traditions of the Sioux Indians give us the first mention of Prescott vicinity, telling of a terrible battle at that point between a hunting party of Sioux camped on the river bank and a war party of Chippewas who crept up on them. All the Sioux women and children were killed and most of the men. Philander Prescott, who built the first post there and gave it his name, got the story from the Indians, who dated it about 120 years before that time; Prescott tells the story in a letter written about 1861, making the battle's date about 1740. George B. Merrick, old-time resident of Prescott, in his book "Life on the Upper Mississippi", tells of finding relics of the battle in the sand there.

First school in Pierce county was conducted by a missionary named Benton on the Prescott levee in 1843 and following—but his pupils were all half-breed or full-blood Indians, so that doesn't count.

Horace Greeley, famous New York *Tribune* editor, visited Pierce county in 1863, speaking in the Congregational church to a large audience. His famous advice, "Go West, young man, go West", meant Pierce county rather than the Pacific coast.



Ferry across St. Croix River at Prescott; steamboat pushing raft.

CHAPTER XII

Logging and Rafting

Although Pierce county is not located in the pine-growing section of Wisconsin, there was some pine in the county in the early days, and pine will grow well in almost any part of the county today.

The upper banks of Rush river, in the towns of Martell and Gilman, had considerable standing pine. At one time over a million feet of logs were driven down Rush river to the millpond at El Paso to be sawed; this timber was probably cut from government land without authorization, but that was a common practice in those days.

A heavy rain brought a flood; the dam at El Paso went out and the logs were scattered all down the river or into Lake Pepin—a total loss to all concerned.

The Eau Galle, although a small stream, had its head in a heavy pine section of St. Croix county, mostly in the towns of Cady and Springfield. The Carson & Rand Company, with big mills at "The Eau Galle" (now Eau Galle village) logged much of that timber, driving it down the river on the spring floods. Several dams along the river were used to hold back the water until there was enough to carry the logs; but at that time the stream had a much larger and more steady flow than it has now.

But although Pierce county produced little pine, it saw huge quantities pass by on the St. Croix and Mississippi, in rafts towed or pushed by steamboats, going to the great mills at St. Louis or elsewhere.

Rafts were large collections of logs, tied together while floating inside a "boom", a log string on the surface of the river that kept logs confined inside. When the rafts had been constructed large "sweeps", or oars, were fastened at each end to use in steering, and small shanties were built on the rafts in which the men in charge lived until the logs were delivered at their destination. It was possible for a raft to be floated down the river on the current; but the practice was to have a steamboat with each "string" of from one to four or five great rafts. Considerable skill was required to manage these strings, and sometimes they were wrecked by storms, or piled up on sand-bars when the river was low.

The first cribbed raft was taken down the Mississippi past Prescott in 1839. In 1840 Stephen Hanks built the first raft of sawed

lumber that was taken down. "Crips" of sawed lumber were 16 feet wide, 32 feet long and 24 layers of boards thick, and many such cribs were fastened together to form a raft—generally 30, the raft being three cribs wide and 10 cribs long. Some of these rafts were given masts and sails when not pushed by steamboats.

River men in those days were known as a hard-working, hard-drinking, hard-fighting lot, and when they came to town there was always considerable excitement. Peaceable men (sometimes that included the sheriffs and constables) went home and staid there until the river men had departed. Prescott was a favorite stopping place of rafts, and was known as one of the toughest towns along the river during those years.

It is told that one river man, who had a playful habit of "shooting up" the mirrors, lights and furniture of whatever saloon or other place he patronized, and who was a big man, proud of his prowess in the rough-and-tumble fighting of those days, was invited by the then sheriff of Pierce county to a fight on the levy, loser to leave town and not come back. The sheriff won. It is said that the river man did come back, but never again made any trouble—in Prescott.

Manufacturing Cabinet Organs

Cabinet organs, such as were found in every prosperous home fifty years ago, were manufactured at Prescott by Geo. H. Nichols. In fact, the Nichols factory made only the cases, the "action" (keys, reeds and bellows) being bought from a larger manufacturer in the East.

Hundreds of these Prescott-built organs were in use in Pierce county at one time; probably some can still be found here.

CHAPTER XIII

Newspapers of Pierce County

From the beginning of Pierce County's first permanent settlement the people of the county have not lacked information from a sufficient number of local newspapers to represent each of the larger communities.

Newspapers of those days hardly resembled the present newspapers in any particular. The type was of course all set by hand and the paper used was made entirely of white rags instead of perishable wood pulp. Reading matter consisted largely of stories, poems, reports of speeches, long political, religious and moral discussions, letters, extracts from eastern papers and such material, written in a leisurely, scholarly style with many classical allusions. There was no country correspondence at all; there were only a few personal items.

Advertising was limited in space and was very moderate in tone; it was hardly displayed at all and never exceeded one column in width.

Those pioneer newspapers gained most of their revenue from printing glowing descriptions of the country in general and some village addition in particular and selling hundreds or thousands of extra copies to real estate "boomers" to be distributed in the East. Printing of legal publications was another good source of revenue.

First newspaper was established at Prescott in 1854 by Chas. E. Young, who named it *The Prescott Paraclete*, not knowing that this name meant "The Prescott Holy Ghost." In September, 1855, Oliver Gibbs bought a half interest in the paper and quickly changed the name to *Prescott Transcript*; Young had a succession of partners—George Rand, J. F. Young. When C. E. Young enlisted in 1861 the *Transcript* was merged in the *Prescott Journal*, edited then by H. N. Twombly, later by Frank H. Pratt. Another *Prescott Journal* was formed when Lute Taylor, of the *River Falls Journal*, bought the *Prescott Transcript* and moved to Prescott in 1861; Taylor sold out to Rockwell J. Flint and E. H. Weber in 1868, and they ran it until 1871, when the plant burned and they suspended publication.

Mr. Flint then bought a paper at Menomonie, Dunn county, which is now the *Dunn County News*, owned by his son Joseph.

The *Northwestern Democrat* was founded Oct. 26, 1858, by Pembroke V. Wise, J. M. Bailey and D. M. Lusk; in 1859 W. J.

Whipple and W. R. Gates took over the paper, but it died in 1860.

M. B. Kimball started publication of the *Clarion* at Prescott in 1873, selling that same year to E. C. Kibbe, who changed the name to *The Pierce County Plaindealer*. E. H. Ives bought the paper in 1876 and continued it till 1893 when it was sold to Geo. G. Price and Brother and called *Prescott Tribune*. It was successively published by James Goldsworthy, H. P. Hurlburt, C. Dickerson, Lawrence Barrett, W. C. Zander, R. B. Frederick. The name was changed to *Prescott Journal* by Frederick, who suspended it in 1924, destroying the old files and cuts and moving away. In 1925 W. H. Hansen revived the *Journal* and is still publishing it.

The Prices published a nicely illustrated literary weekly called *Prescott Ariel* for a few years in the 1880's; it cost too much to be a financial success.

In 1857 Lute and Hod Taylor established the first paper at River Falls, naming it the *River Falls Journal*; eleven years later, in 1868 Lute Taylor sold the *Journal* to Flint & Weber; the office burned in 1871 and the subscription list was sold to Kimball & Morse, of Ellsworth, and for a year River Falls had no newspaper. In 1872 Abner Morse, River Falls attorney, revived the *Journal*, and that same year his son C. R. Morse became a member of the firm. In 1876 John D. Moody bought an interest in the paper and the firm was C. R. Morse & Co. until 1881, when J. H. Wilkenson bought out Moody. Later Morse became sole proprietor and conducted the *Journal* alone until his son Stanley R. Morse took part of the work, assuming it all when his father died. Later it was bought by Clarence E. White, present owner.

The *River Falls Times* was established in 1894 by Alfred E. Roese, who sold to Percy A. Roberts; later owners were Nelson & Woodruff and C. E. Nelson. It was absorbed by the *Journal*.

The *River Falls Press* was established at River Falls by Geo. B. Merrick in 1874. In 1877 Walter S. Fowler bought a half interest.

For two years, 1904 to 1906, W. H. Putnam published the *Rural Bee-Keeper* at River Falls; it was merged with the *American Bee-Keeper*.

First paper at Ellsworth was the *Pierce County Herald*, published by Geo. W. and Morris B. Kimball, the latter being editor, established in 1868. Dr. D. W. Woodworth became associate editor in 1869. In 1871 the *Herald* bought the subscription list of the *River Falls Journal* and became the only paper in the county.

outside of Prescott; at this time C. Randall Morse of River Falls bought a half interest and Dr. Woodworth retired. In 1875 Eugene F. Case, county superintendent of Pierce county, bought C. R. Morse's interests and became editor. M. B. Kimball sold his interest to Eugene S. Doolittle in 1877, and in 1886 E. F. Case sold his interest to the Herald Printing Co., of which E. S. Doolittle was manager and editor. Later Mr. Doolittle's son Harold F. became associated with him, assuming entire charge at his father's death in 1920, which position he still occupies.

The *Ellsworth Eagle* was founded at the East End by E. A. Ross in 1893; soon afterward the paper was sold to E. A. Quinn, who changed the name to *Ellsworth Gleaner*. He was succeeded by Roland Eisley, and he by Wrightman & Taplin, who sold to County Superintendent John F. Shaw Jan. 1, 1899, and the name was again changed, this time to the *Ellsworth Record*. The paper prospered under Shaw's management. Sept. 14, 1911, Oscar A. Halls bought it and has been editor and manager ever since.

Maiden Rock's first paper, *The Sun*, was started Aug. 19, 1886, by Wilbur Edgar Stone, who collected for subscriptions and left town. In 1892 Alfred E. Roese, a local young man, established *The Weekly Press*, which lasted five years; later he owned and edited newspapers at Osceola and River Falls. In 1901 Robert A. Axtell published the *Maiden Rock News*. This was succeeded by the *Maiden Rock Press*, published by H. J. Keeler; June 5, 1908, Clifford Dickerson bought the *Press*; in 1910 George Stirling bought it; in 1912 Lloyd Axtell (brother of Robert A.) became owner and Emil Bardell was publisher. W. C. Tufts came next, followed by W. G. Ashton in 1915, then by L. G. Decker in 1916, by George and Lillian Carpenter in 1917-18 and by August Fanks in 1919-20. No paper has been published there since Mr. Fanks left.

The present paper at Elmwood, *The Elmwood Argus*, was established in 1928 by Jas. A. Neil and son. Before that time several papers had been published there for short periods, but had suspended. The *Argus* also prints an edition for Plum City.

In 1892 Thurston J. Rostad established the *Spring Valley Sun* at Spring Valley. The paper was bought in 1895 by Chas. Lowater. In 1930 the Spring Valley Publishing Co., consisting of Chas. Lowater, Stella Lowater, Donald W. Lowater and Florence Lowater, took over the paper; the name is now *The Sun*.

CHAPTER XIV

List of County Officers

County Clerks

P. V. Wise	1853-1856
H. Teachout	1856-1857
Oliver Gibbs, Jr.	1857-1861
Osborne Strahl	1861-1864
John Winn	1864-1869
H. B. Warner	1869-1878
J. W. Hancock	1878-1881
J. B. Jensen	1881-1899
O. H. Hohle	1899-1936
Theo. J. Thoreson	1935-

County Treasurers

Jonathan Bailey	-1857
James S. Ayers	1857-1859
J. H. Southwich	1859-1861
H. P. Ames	1861-1863
A. Gibson	1863-1865
W. H. Winchester	1865-1867
M. B. Williams	1867-1871
M. J. Paine	1871-1879
F. B. White	1879-1883
J. S. Rounce	1883-1891
J. T. Bowers	1891-1895
Geo. F. Wiesemann	1895-1899
Ole Bergsing	1899-1903
F. W. Kendall	1903-1907
T. Tobias, Jr.	1907-1911
E. H. Powers	1911-1915
F. W. Kendall	1915-1931
Wm. M. Moran	1931-

Sheriffs

J. S. Olive	1855-1857
James H. Eames	1857-1859
H. P. Ames	1859-1861
J. R. Freeman	1861-1863

C. Pruett	1863-1865
Jas. Walsingham	1865-1867
J. A. Gitteau	1867-1869
G. W. Dickerson	1869-1871
E. Burnett	1871-1873
T. L. Nelson	1873-1875
W. P. Knowles	1875-1877
T. L. Nelson	1877-1879
A. T. Carroll	1879-1881
A. H. Lord	1881-1883
A. M. Sands	1883-1885
David Scott	1885-1887
B. H. Corcoran	1887-1889
R. S. Rolson	1889-1891
John Murphy	1891-1893
R. S. Rolson	1893-1895
T. L. Nelson	1895-1897
R. S. Rolson	1897-1899
M. Nugent	1899-1901
C. E. Glass	1901-1903
James Murphy	1903-1905
M. Nugent	1905-1907
R. S. Rolson	1907-1907
O. A. Halls	1907-1909
J. H. Gilmore	1909-1911
C. E. Glass	1911-1913
Ray H. Hyatt	1913-1915
M. L. Kjelstad	1915-
Geo. Chinnock	-1917
T. Halvorson	1917-1919
Joseph W. Maier	1919-1921
R. H. Hyatt	1921-1923
F. L. Rolson	1923-1925
F. L. Baker	1925-1927
M. L. Kjelstad	1927-1929
Mary Kjelstad	1929-1931
M. L. Kjelstad	1931-1935
Mary Kjelstad	1935-

Registers of Deeds

Sheldon Otis	-1857
Freeman Field	1857-1859
G. W. Cairns	1859-1861
Selah Strickland	1861-1863
C. N. Hyerdahl	1863-1865
L. L. Lewis	1865-1867
C. W. Brown	1867-1879
K. W. Lewis	1879-1883
M. M. Sanderson	1883-1887
F. D. Lord	1887-1891
W. E. Warren	1891-1899
W. W. Walsingham	1899-1909
Fred G. Magee	1909-1929
J. L. Swanson	1929-

Clerks of Circuit Court

A. H. Young	-1861
Smith R. Gunn	1861-1863
C. N. Hyerdahl	1863-1865
L. L. Lewis	1865-1867
C. W. Brown	1867-1875
M. C. Guest	1875-1879
J. B. Jenson	1879-1881
J. S. Rounce	1881-1883
E. L. Hawn	1883-1885
C. W. Brown	1885-1889
S. Cooke	1889-1891
E. J. Fitzgerald	1891-1893
L. L. Richardson	1893-1899
L. G. Spinney	1899-1909

W. E. Warren	1909-1931
R. D. Morton	1931-1933
E. C. Jurgenson	1933-

County Judges

Wm. Hawes	-1873
P. D. Pierce	1873-1878
H. P. Ames	1878-1886
J. W. Hancock	1886-1894
H. B. Warner	1894-1898
Allen P. Weld	1898-1916
W. P. Knowles	1916-

District Attorneys

Harris Gleason	-1859
P. D. Pierce	1859-1861
A. H. Young	1861-1867
J. C. Button	1867-1871
G. E. Hough	1871-1873
Henry E. Bevans	1873-1875
F. L. Gilson	1875-1881
F. A. Ross	1881-1887
Ambrose Cook	1887-1889
A. Combacker	1889-1893
J. S. Field	1893-1895
A. Combacker	1895-1903
Geo. Thompson	1903-1915
W. P. Knowles	1915-1916
W. G. Haddow	1916-1921
K. S. White	1921-1927
Theo. A. Waller	1927-

List of County Superintendents

Following is a list of Pierce county school superintendents, with their years of service:

W. T. Hatch 1862-64; Daniel Thurston 1864-68; R. L. Reed 1868-70; Chas. Smith 1870-72; Eugene F. Case 1872-74; Martin E. Cady 1874-75; R. L. Reed 1875-76; Horace S. Baker 1876-80; Jas. T. McCleary 1880-82; Amos Rosenberger 1882-84; John

Murphy 1884-86; G. L. Bowman 1886-88; Chas. J. Brewer 1888-90; Andrew L. Thompson 1890-92; John F. Shaw 1892-99; Anthony J. Ingli 1899-1905; George W. Weldon 1905-09; Oscar Mattson 1909-14; Henry B. Aasterud 1914-23; Thos. J. Mealey 1923-30 (he died in office); Mark L. Saxton 1930—.

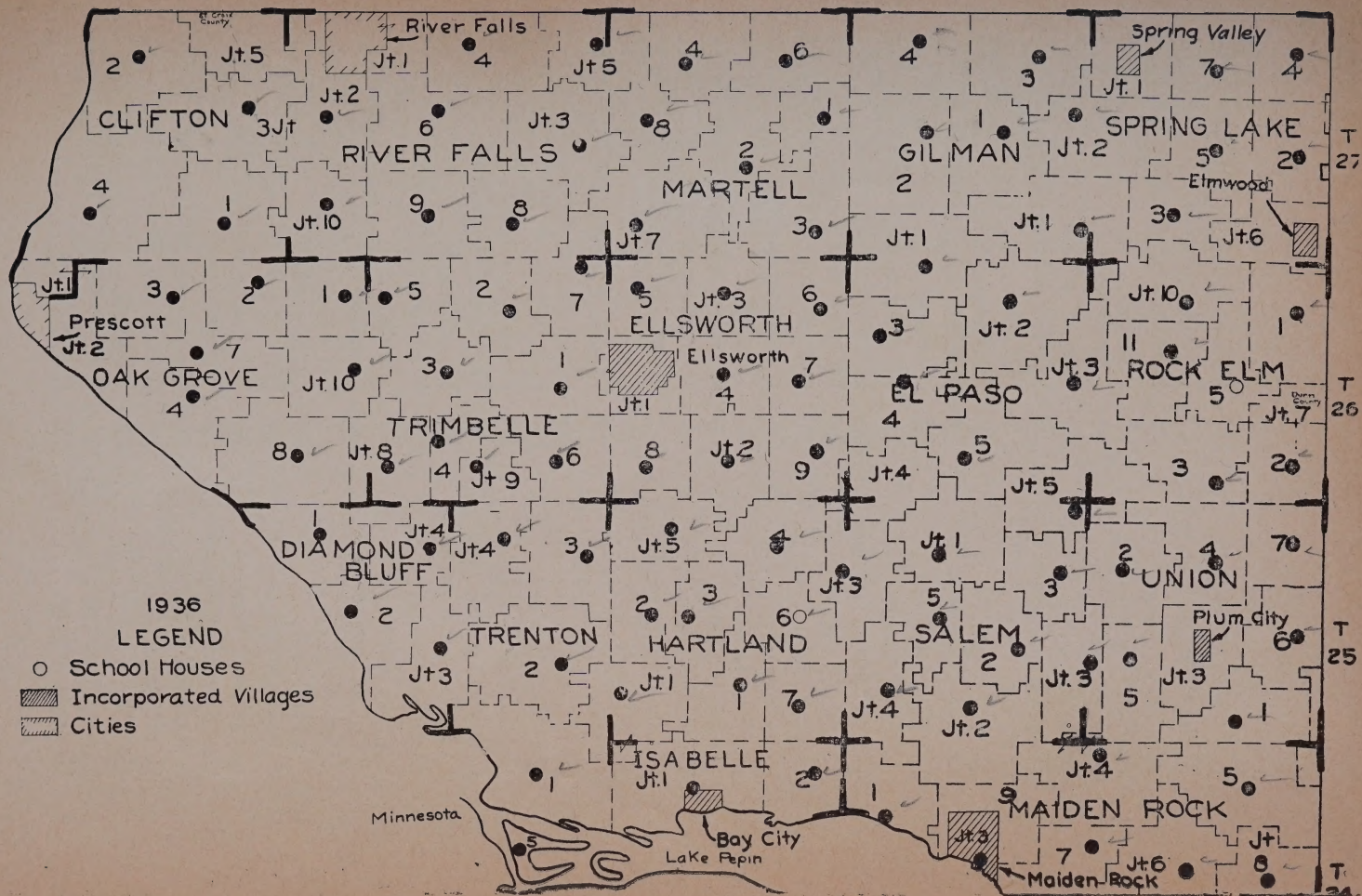
Supervising Teachers of County

Rilla Martin 1915-20; Grayce Kemp Bittner 1920-23; Mrs. Catherine Steiner 1923-31; Ida M. Qualle, appointed in 1931, and Monie B. Archie, appointed in 1937, are present incumbents.

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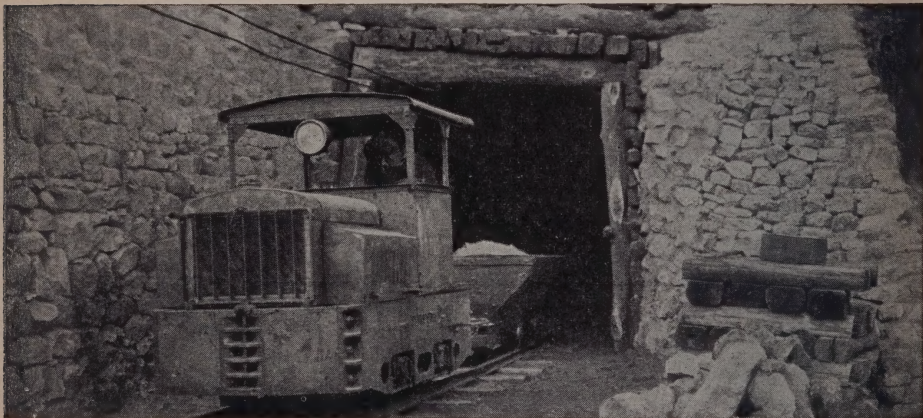
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Entrance to Bay City Sand Mine.

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